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STUDENT COMMENT AND NEWS

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Week 9 Lent Term, Tuesday March 10, 2009

Another year of Payne

- President re-elected for second term
- Payne hails strong Sabb Team-elect

by **Lizzie Houghton**
News Editor

MICHAEL PAYNE HAS won election as LUSU President for the second time having received 64.2% of the vote in the Sabbatical elections last Thursday.

Despite voter turnout having fallen from last year, Payne managed to build on the majority he gained last year by 1.5%. "Students clearly agreed with the policies I put forward and I won't let them down," he said. "I'm very happy. The students of Lancaster have decided. The election wasn't just about me, it was about an endorsement of the work that has been done this year by the entire team, of which I'm very proud."

The new Sabb team will be made up of Andrew Johnston as Vice-President (Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies), Danny Owens as Vice-President (Academic Affairs), Sue Wynes as Vice-President (Sports), Torri Crapper as Vice-President (Equality, Diversity and Welfare) and Liam Richardson as Vice-President (Media and Communications / SCAN Editor).

The 229 people inside the Sugarhouse for the results night, as well as the 500 watching live on LUTube, saw Payne, who is the first LUSU President to serve a second term, elected along with the new Sabbatical team. The old team will handover at the end of Summer Term.

Pete MacMillan, Payne's opponent this year, also gained a higher percentage of the vote than his counterpart last year, taking almost 30% of votes cast. He still lost to Payne in all colleges, including his home college of County, where MacMillan gained 106 votes to

Payne's 107.

Outside of the Presidential race, Liam Richardson won what was the most contested position, VP (Media & Comms / SCAN Editor). Votes had to be reallocated three times before Richardson met quota and was announced the first of the new Sabbatical Officers. "[It's] just an incredible feeling," he said afterwards. "I'm absolutely astonished, and a bit lost for words as well. I can't wait to start."

As well as being the most contested, the race for VP (Media & Comms / SCAN Editor) was also arguably the most controversial, with some candidates complaining of media bias in the way the elections were reported.

Less contested, though still controversial, was Torri Crapper's election as VP (EWD). Crapper was uncontested after current LUSU Women's Officer, Sara Dunn, dropped out of the race at the end of Week 7. Crapper's decision to stand for the position was seen as odd by some, given her vehement defence of a women's only position on the Sabbatical team in the Sabbatical review last term.

Outside of President, the most decisive victory in a contested election was Andrew Johnston's for the position of VP (FEDS). Johnston beat his college-mate Sandeep Banwait with almost a third more of the vote. Johnston promised he would spend time in office "looking at every single aspect of the way [elections are] performed to find any routes into widening participation, knowledge and excitement about elections" as well as ensuring societies are protected against the effects of ever decreasing society space. "It is essen-

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One more year: Michael Payne speaking at Husting last Monday, during his campaign to be re-elected as LUSU President. (Photo : Dan Hogan)

NUS to focus on protecting cap not ending fees

- National President calls for focus on keeping the cap
- Union must halt marketisation of higher education

by **Chris Davis**
News Editor

NUS WILL NO longer push for the abolition of Top-up Fees, NUS President, Wes Streeting, has said, in setting out the Union's position towards higher education funding.

Rather than the traditional NUS strategy of campaigning for free higher education and the abolition of tuition fees, the Union will instead focus on reducing the level of fees Universities will be able to charge students, which they believe could be as high as £7,000 a year if the current fees 'cap' is removed.

Speaking to the Independent, Streeting stated that "the next fees debate is not going to be fought or won on whether graduates pay a contribution to the cost of their education. As much as many of us still believe in the notion that students should not have to pay, the reality is that both major parties are committed to them paying." He went on to state the Union's two major priorities were now to "halt the development of a market in higher education, and bring the variable fee down".

Higher education minister, David Lammy, announced last month that the proposed review of tuition fees would begin this summer, although many have claimed that it is unlikely any decision on the issue will be reached until at least late next year, potentially after the next general election. Since the announcement, arguments around HE funding have flared again. The Liberal Democrats renewed their commitment to free higher education, outlining plans to fund degrees by reallocating money from other public services. The Vice-Chancellors of many Universities

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'Invisible Children' charity to screen film at university



by Emily Buttery

THE CHARITY 'INVISIBLE Children' will be screening their documentary on child soldiers in Uganda in the Elizabeth Livingstone Lecture Theatre on Wednesday March 18 at 7pm.

The charity, which carries out community projects in Uganda, such as mentoring programmes and re-educating the child soldiers, was founded by a group of young filmmakers after

they travelled to the country in 2003. They found a country ravished by a war which had been waging for over 23 years and has left nearly two million civilians displaced. In 1996, the Uganda Government forcibly evicted thousands from their homes, relocating them into overcrowded camps in desperate hopes of providing protection. However, over a decade later, these camps are still accommodating over 1 millions civilians, struggling to survive the starvation, disease and complete poverty.

Futhermore, the Lord's Resistance Army, has been abducting young chil-

dren to use as child soldiers. It is estimated that 90% of the LRA's troops were abducted as children, taken to the jungle and brain washed into becoming trained, ruthless killers.

As a non-profit organisation the charity works to help these invisible children who have to commute nightly to schools, hospitals and churches to all sleep together for comfort and safety. By documenting the lives of Ugandans affected by the conflict, they hope to educate and inspire people in the Western world to bring about change.

Friday Fury back again in Week 9

FRIDAY FURY WILL be returning to campus at the end of this week, (Week 9). The campus-wide bar crawl, organised by LUSU with the help of the college JCRs, will follow the same format as earlier in the term with the exception of collectable cards being handed out instead of wristbands.

Cards will be handed out to everyone buying a drink in the college bars, alcoholic or not. Every card collected will be the equivalent of £1 off the entry price to the Sugarhouse. Three cards from from different colleges will grant the bearer free entry into the club before midnight. After midnight four different cards will be needed. As with last time a number of drinks offers will also be available, hopefully making the event cheaper than most ordinary nights out.

Janie Coleman, LUSU General Secretary and one of the figureheads in organising Friday Fury said: "Fury is one of the most popular and eagerly awaited events in our social calendar. It's a great chance for all students to spend some quality time in the bars whilst giving them some much needed support. From there on they can go for a good olde <sic> boogie at the Sugarhouse and celebrate the end of Lent Term in style."

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Student blames poor communication for bursary mix up

by Lizzie Houghton
News Editor

A STUDENT SAYS they feel left in the dark over the University's handling of their rent and bursary payments. Collette McColgan claims that a mix up in communications between her college and the University meant that her bursary money was paid towards next term's rent, leaving her £500 short. Ms. McColgan has had to apply for an emergency loan after she was left with £90 until the end of term. Other student have also said they have experienced bursary payment problems.

"If they had told me there was an error I would have resolved it as soon as I could have," Ms. McColgan said. "I don't blame the University, I just wish they'd kept me informed. I understand why they took the money from my bursary. It makes no sense for them to give me money when I owe them."

Ms. McColgan changed from online payments to direct debit at the start of this term. Having heard nothing to the contrary she assumed the money would leave her bank account on February 17, the allotted day for direct payments to be made. She checked her bank balance on February 20 to make sure this was the case. Her statement showed that the direct debit money had not left her account. It also showed that she had not received her bursary, which was meant to come in the day before.

On the Monday, February 23, Ms. McColgan went to talk to the Furness College Residence Officers, who told her that as far as they were concerned she had paid her rent for that term. When Ms. McColgan explained that the money had not left her account they said computer data confirmed otherwise but that they would continue to look into it. The next day a meeting by phone was arranged between Ms. McColgan's College Residence Officer – and a representative of the University's College and Residences Office. This representative explained to Ms. McColgan that her details had not been entered onto the University's list of direct debit payers, so no money was



Lack of communication: Collette McColgan (not pictured) was left £500 short after the University failed to let her know they had taken her bursary to pay for her rent.

taken out. Ms. McColgan had therefore missed the deadline for rent payment. What she wasn't told at this time was that in order to pay off this debt her bursary money had been used.

Unaware of this Ms. McColgan had paid the £1274 she thought she owed the University the next day. In actual fact she only owed £774 for this term, her bursary having paid for the rest. She said she was not told she only owed £774 and therefore paid the full amount. The £500 surplus, instead of being returned to her, was instead put towards next term's rent fees.

Ms. McColgan had planned her budget around receiving this £500 bursary. Having not received it she was left with £90 to last until the end of term. She has had to apply for an emergency University loan. She is now getting help

from the University's Finance Office in reclaiming her bursary. Originally it was thought this would take up to a month to happen, although now it is hoped the issue will be resolved sooner. "I've not done anything wrong," she said. "I don't deserve to be £500 down at the end of term. The University did not explain what had happened. I feel like I was treated like I was dodging my rent."

Peter Fielding, Head of Department for Financial Accounting at the Finance Office, explained that the University does not "specifically" inform students when their bursaries are offset against university debt. He said: "All students, and indeed suppliers, receive an e-mail remittance advice the day before the payment is credited to their bank account informing them of the amount

of the payment, although we do not specifically write to students informing them of the amount that has been deducted in accordance with the award regulations."

Ms. McColgan acknowledges that she received the e-mail confirming she would get her bursary, but also that the University did not inform her of when they had taken the money. If they had, she says she would not have paid the full £1274 she thought she owed for rent.

Penny Park, an assistant adviser of Student Support's Financial Service, asked that if any other students were experiencing similar problems they should "alter us that they know the direct debit is coming out or see their College Residence Officer to cancel their direct debit."

Bursaries do not affect students' university choices

BURSARY CONSIDERATIONS HAVE no effect on students when choosing whether to continue with higher education, the director of the Office for Fair Access has warned. Speaking at a seminar held by the Higher Education Policy Institute, Sir Martin Harris said: "There is little evidence that any financial package at 18 makes any difference to whether a young person goes into higher education."

Mr. Harris said that the Government would instead do better encouraging more people under the age of 14 to start thinking about education. According to him initiatives such as the education maintenance allowance were doing more to widen participation in higher education amongst poorer students than bursaries.

"The principle task of Ofpa that no students should be deterred at the age of 18 by financial worries seems to have been largely successful," Mr. Harris said. "This leads to the question of what would be the best areas of increased support for widening access much earlier in the educational system rather than continuing to focus on age 18."

He added: "Obviously, I believe that both grants and loans and university bursaries are vital in encouraging young people to enter high education."

David Willetts, the Conservative high education spokesman, agreed with Mr. Harris' comments. Speaking to the Guardian he said: "I am focusing on the problem of poor information and the virtual collapse of the careers service. For middle-class children there is a well trodden route via Ucas to university. That route is harder to use if you are from a background that doesn't know how the system works."

NUS fears further consumerisation of HE

have taken the opposite stance, arguing for the abolition of the current £3,000 'cap' on fees, allowing them to potentially charge substantially higher fees, at a time of financial hardship.

Streeter reiterated his fears that raising the cap would lead to the further consumerisation of Higher Education and the growth of class divisions between institutions. In the strategic document "Broke & Broken", NUS argue for an alternative funding system in which graduates pay back to their university a sum linked to their earnings, in a notion similar to the idea of a 'graduate tax'.

LUSU President, Michael Payne, spoke in favour of Streeter's com-

ments. He said: "It is important for student unions to realise this review won't simply be around fees. It will be focus on a whole range of issues which will directly affect students; it would be naive and foolish to believe this is simply a fight on fees."

NUS have been both commended and criticised for their disavowal of free higher education. Many have championed it as a realistic and positive move that will mean NUS is taken more seriously, but student unions at Cambridge, Goldsmiths, and Bradford have rejected NUS's policy, supporting independently organised campaigns and protests against the existence of tuition fees.

Students elect new Sabb team for 09/10

tial that we create a clear set of goals that we can present to the University to keep societies functioning," he added.

Sue Wynes also won with a large proportion of the vote. She beat Tan Farrell for the position of VP (Sports) by a 14% majority, making her the first woman to hold the position since Jen Montague in 2003. She said her plans for her term are to make sport "the biggest it's ever been" in the University.

The contest for VP (Academic Affairs) was eventually won by Danny Ovens, who gained just over 100 more votes than his opponent, Simon Rimmington. "Lancaster is a great University and its students deserve every chance to get a great degree," Ovens said. "I will not break the promises I have made. Accountability is very im-

portant to me".

As well as the Sabbatical Elections four other elections were also held on Thursday. A non-sabbatical by-election was held to fill the two remaining places on the Union's Block of Six. Gemma Evans, a third year from Furness, and Matt Saint, the current LGBT officer on County's JCR, came out as eventual winners. The Block of Six are officers without a portfolio who can support and instigate any campaign they like. They are also meant to represent the views of students on campus.

Stephen Ashly was elected as the student trustee on the Union's trustee board. His was the only other uncontested election. Asly's term will begin at the end of the Summer term when current student trustee, Philip Miles, graduates.

Elections were also held to decide Lancaster's delegates at this year's NUS Annual Conference. of the 13 candidates the eventual winners were SCAN Editor, Dan Hogan; LUSU General Secretary Janie Coleman; LUSU Women's Officer Sara Dunn; President of Cartmel JCR, Robbie Pickles; former LUSU Chief Returning Officer Sandeep Banwait; non-sabbatical Welfare Campaigns Pete MacMillan and Matt Saint.

Finally, students also voted on the Union's referenda, which was passed with 991 votes. The referenda having been passed, the Union can now look at becoming "more relevant, representing and sustainable".

According to the LUSU Consitution the "strategic direction of the Union shall be put to a referendum of the membership every 3 years".

Female students warned to remain vigilant after girl is attacked in Ryelands Park

by Lisa Stallard

FEMALE STUDENTS ARE reminded to be vigilant after a girl was attacked in a local park three weeks ago.

The 16 year old girl was walking through Ryelands Park, on the outskirts of Lancaster city centre in the early hours of 14th February, between 4 and 4.15am, when she was subjected to a serious sexual attack. An e-fit of the man was released shortly after the incident, but so far there have been no further developments.

The man is described as white, approximately 30 years old, around 5'10" tall and is of muscular build. He has dark facial hair, which looked to be unshaven for a couple of days. He is described as having small eyes, with one or two freckles across the bridge of his nose and cheeks and he is also said to have a thick cut or graze to the right of the bridge of his nose. He was wearing a Peruvian grey bobble hat which has flaps at the side and can be tied underneath the neck.

Detective Inspector Phil Jones, who is leading the investigation, said: 'This is a particularly nasty attack which has been carried out on a vulnerable young woman. I would appeal to anyone who may have seen or heard anything suspicious to contact police'. Anyone with information should ring the station on 01524 63333 or call Crimestoppers

"Stay with friends you trust. Avoid walking alone, especially in the dark, and steer clear from isolated pathways even in the daylight."

anonymously on 0800 555 111, quoting log number 973 NQ of the 17 February.

Torri Crapper, Vice-President Elect (Equality, Welfare and Diversity), commented on the attack, saying: "it is important to continue to challenge the stereotypes that society depicts, it is not the girl's fault for walking through a park, we need to continue to defend our rights". Ms. Crapper highlighted that as recently last week in Manches-

ter there were active campaigns, when a number of Student Unions 'reclaimed the streets' from gender-based violence.

Even more recently, International Women's Day on 8th March successfully held many activities to promote women's equality, and the incident only serves to illustrate the need for such campaigns to continue and be supported. Sara Dunn, LUSU Women's Officer commented: "It is a shame that women and girls are often still held to account for their rapist's actions". Ms. Dunn offered some basic safety tips for women. "Stay with friends you trust. Avoid walking alone, especially in the dark, and steer clear from isolated pathways even in the daylight." She advertised the £1 attack alarms available from the Women's Office, stating: "Know these tips and live life confidently. Women should not be scared into a corner".

According to Home Office statistics, around 23 per cent of women will experience some form of sexual assault as adults. 5 per cent will be raped. However, only 15 per cent of these assaults will be reported to the police.

Lancaster goes bananas



Going Bananas: Lancaster took part in a world record attempt on Friday (Week 8) as part of Fairtrade's 'Go Bananas' event. Organised by GreenLancaster, volunteers were handing out bananas in Alexandra Square hoping to get as many Lancaster students involved as possible. (Photo: Dan Hogan).

THE ONLY WAY TO RUIN WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

FUSION TUESDAYS
AT CUBA LANCASTER

JOIN US EVERY WEEK FOR THE
BIGGEST, MESSIEST
STUDENT NIGHT
LANCASTER HAS TO OFFER
BUY A BOTTLE GET A SHOT FREE!



PARTY GAMES
DRINKS OFFERS
EVERY WEEK
SEE YOU THERE
YES?!



Lancaster students join in global call for solidarity between sexes

- Women's Officer & societies raise awarness
- HSBC event encourages workplace diversity

by Lisa Stallard

STUDENTS AT LANCASTER University celebrated International Women's Day on Friday with a number of themed events.

This year's global theme was 'Women and Men United to End Violence Against Women'. Hosted by the LUSU's Women's Office, Sara Dunn, the day included stalls in Alexandra Square with various agendas. The Feminist Society and the Women and Girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo group were both present promoting women's equality. Souped Up played an important role in providing refreshments for promoters and participators alike. In the evening, there was a open-mic night in Furness Bar with women artists singing, playing instruments and reading poetry.

There was also an open forum held by Ms. Dunn in conjunction with HSBC, exploring the role young adults can play in creating a more diverse and equal workplace, both in the UK and across the world.

Ms. Dunn said of the event: "It's about raising awareness of other women's situations. A lot of people do question why we have IWD in Britain. I find that question quite ignorant. Although you have the argument that women have progressed quite a lot in this country – which is true but we still have a very long way to go – there are women out there who are in the same situation as women here were 200 years ago."

Torri Crapper, Vice President-elect

(Equality, Welfare and Diversity) also commented on why it was so important for Lancaster students to get involved. She said: "IWD gives our University the chance to stand up in solidarity with women all over the world, to stand and be counted in our desire to end the discrimination, ostracisation and violence towards women".

IWD is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women in the past, present and future. First run on 8th March 1911, it is now an official holiday in China, Armenia, Russia and Vietnam amongst many other countries. In some of these countries IWD even has the equivalent status of Mother's Day, where children give small presents to their mothers and grandmothers. Although the official date is the 8th March, activities for Lancaster students took place on Friday 6th. According to the website, the ethos for the campaign is to "think globally and act locally. Make everyday International Women's Day. Do your bit to ensure that the future for girls is bright, equal, safe and rewarding".

Annually, thousands of events are held throughout the world to inspire women and celebrate achievements. Organisations, governments and women's groups around the world choose different themes each year that reflect global and local gender issues. Some years have seen global IWD themes honoured around the world, while in other years groups have preferred to 'localise' their own themes to make them more specific and relevant. These range from political rallies to theatrical performances and fashion parades.



Getting their message across: Female students turn out to support IWD. (Photo: Lizzie Houghton.)

Condolences for Fylde Student

by Samantha Newsham
Deputy News Editor

A LANCASTER UNIVERSITY student was found dead in his room at Chancellor's Wharf on Sunday February 15. Matthew King, 22, a member of Fylde College, was in his final year of a BA in Music Technology. He was originally from Halifax.

Fylde College Principal Frank Wareing said: "Matthew was a young man of great potential, whose character embodied creativity, individuality and a zest for the enjoyment of life in the company of his friends at Lancaster. His smile, sense of humour and engaging manner have inspired numerous tributes from those who knew him. "He was a bright student whose presence enlivened academic sessions and whose personality inspired his friends. Coming to terms with his loss will be very difficult."

Mr. Wareing, along with many other staff members and students from the university, attended Matthew's funeral, held on February 27 in Halifax. A book of remembrance has been set up in Fylde College Office and a Facebook site has been created, both of which have captured many tributes from Matthew's friends. Fylde College are currently arranging a memorial service for Matthew, to be held in the next few weeks. "We will be working closely with his friends and family to organise something which values and commemorates his life at Lancaster," said Mr. Wareing.

A statement from the University said: "Police are investigating but no other persons are being sought in connection with the inquiry." A coroner's report is being prepared and an inquest will be held in June.

Lancaster Postgraduates demonstrate award winning creative flair

by Lizzie Houghton
News Editor

TWO OF LANCASTER University's Postgraduate students have won national and international acclaim for their work. Colette Lawlor and Cath Nichols, MA and PhD students of Creative Writing respectively, have both had their poetry singled out for awards.

Ms. Lawlor was a finalist in the this year's Aesthetica Competition. Although she did in the end win the arts magazine's top award her work was published in the Aesthetica Annual. Speaking about how her MA Creative Writing course has helped Ms. Lawlor said: "There is a lot of reading your own work to other writers and getting feedback so it's very useful. You can gauge other people's reactions and see how your writing is perceived so it's invaluable."

This year's Aesthetica's Competition was judged by the magazine's cofounder Cherie Federico, Creative Writing lecturer Kate North, and the national



journalist David Martin. Ms. Federico said: "I've always loved finding new writers and learning about new artists ... Furthermore our 2008 competition proved to be a major springboard for many of the finalists involved so I'm hoping to nurture some new careers in 2009."

Aesthetica, the country's leading cultural magazine, holds its Creative Works Competition every year. The competition is open all ages. There are three categories: Artwork & Photography, Fiction and Poetry. The winner in

each gains £500.

Ms. Nichols was awarded \$1000 by the Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Award for her poems, *The Gift*, *Frog* and *Betula pendula*, *Silver Birch*. The award is recognised on both sides of the Atlantic. Aimed at talented young writers, the prizes range from \$1000 to \$25,000 for poems felt to truly celebrate the spirit of life. It was established by Professor Marvin Rosenberg in 2004 in memory of his late wife. His second wife, Mary, used to teach at Lancaster University.

Something:

Colette Lawlor and her poem 'On the Way to the Exhibition' which reached the final in Aesthetica's Poetry Competition.

On the Way to the Exhibition

we stepped onto the nearly missed bus,
that I'm sure was green,
aimed for the side-seats,
the ones where you face other people,
lurch forward with each turn, grin.

As she sat, a coloured shop-front
peeped from my mother's coat.
Plastic laminate, worn daily
and easy to keep clean
with cartoon rows of shops –
grocer, butchers, bakery –
vendor at each door, wares
drawn into windows.

I remember, because it was my favourite one,
and she turned wide-eyed to me,
concealed the forgotten apron,
on that bus I recall being in Liverpool
but she always says was Southampton.

by Colette Lawlor

LUSU Sabbatical elections

Tears, tension and triumph

Payne makes history with second term victory

- Payne wins clean-sweep of all nine colleges
- MacMillan pledges to run again

by Dan Hogan
Editor

FOR THE FIRST time in LUSU's history, a union sabbatical officer has sought and won re-election. Michael Payne, the LUSU President, won re-election last Thursday, with over 60% of the vote.

Though receiving criticism from some quarters for seeking a second term in office, with reasons ranging from depriving others of the chance, to accusations that he had achieved nothing in his first year as President, his share of the vote held up on last year's election. Of the 1402 votes cast, 961 – almost two-thirds – went to Payne, beating second year County student Pete MacMillan decisively.

Speaking to SCAN after the announcement, he said: "I'm very happy. The students of Lancaster have decided. The election wasn't just about me, it was about an endorsement of the work that has been done this year by the entire team, of which I'm very proud."

He put his victory down to his manifesto, saying "students clearly agreed with policies I put forward and I won't let them down. I'll stand by my promises." But the votes were still split very much along college lines in both candidates home colleges, with Cartmel voting overwhelmingly for Payne and County presenting a significant amount of support for MacMillan. But despite County's college loyalty, Payne made a clean-sweep, winning all nine colleges, though only be a single vote in County. Pendle and Lonsdale, where MacMillan received only 18%, also voted particularly strongly for Payne.

MacMillan was "disappointed" at the result, but resolved to run for a sabbatical position again next year, when he'll be a finalist. "I had set out to win – why else would I have run – But at the same time I'll be back next year, stronger than ever."

The two candidates had explained their very different visions of the role of LUSU earlier in the week, at Sabbatical Hustings. Payne's faith in "informed policies, constructive communication and realistic aims" appeared relatively conservative next to the radical, campaign-oriented union that MacMillan sought to create.

While MacMillan pledged to "be the first to start the chants on any protest and the last to back own when things aren't going our way," Payne's message throughout his campaign was more moderate, and dismissive of MacMillan's "1960s style student activism."

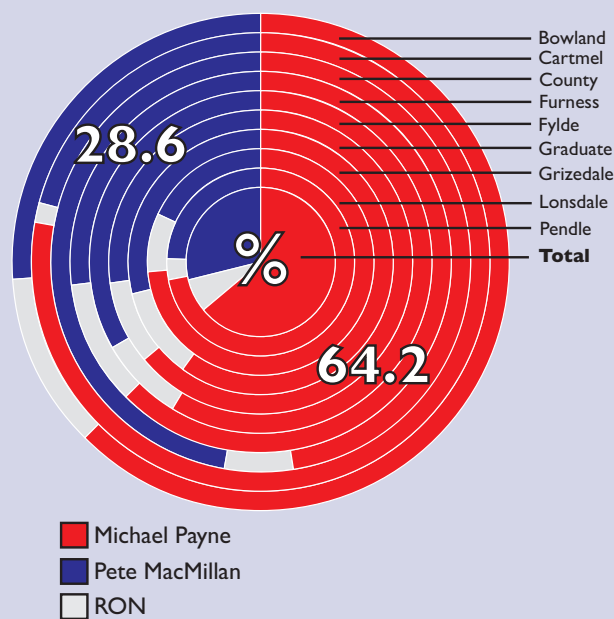
"We are about much more than banging our hands on the table, demanding the impossible and always saying 'no' to negotiation," he said. Following the election, Payne was eager to get back to the task of leading LUSU. "There's still a lot of work to be done now until June and I think there's a lot more projects in the pipeline but I'm incredibly happy and proud to be leading the students again next year."

He also praised the other successful candidates, saying: "I think there were a series of brilliant candidates this year, some good campaigns and clearly the right people have been elected." MacMillan, content that students had had the chance to make a democratic choice, offered his congratulations to his rival. "He probably deserves it," he said. "At the end of the day we needed to ensure democracy played it's part and it has done. I said in my hust if the answer came back from the student body that it was a 'no' then so be it."

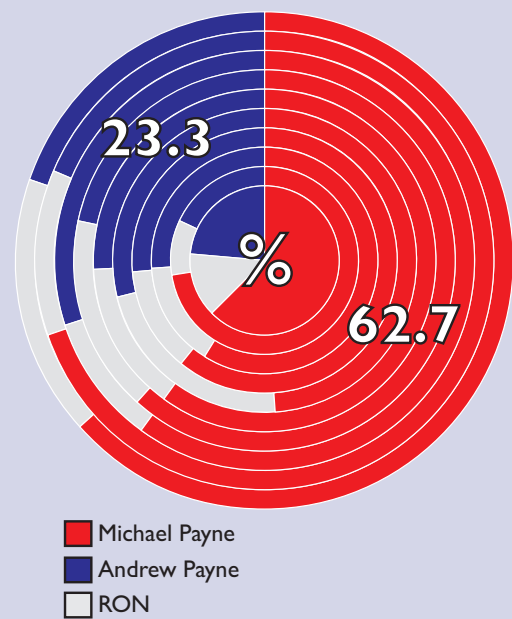
Sabbatical Team 09/10



Presidential election 2009



Presidential election 2008



Richardson pips Henry to the post in race for Vice-President Media &

by Lizzie Houghton
News Editor

IN WHAT WAS the most contested position of this year's Sabbatical elections, Liam Richardson come out on top, winning the race for Vice-President (Media & Communications / SCAN Editor). Richardson, the current editor of SCAN's Comment section, narrowly beat Charlotte Henry, former Station Manager of Bailrigg FM, after votes for R.O.N, Charlotte Parker and Sam Fitton were reallocated.

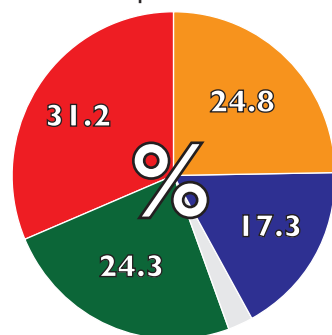
Speaking after his victory Richardson said: "[It's] just an incredible feeling. I'm absolutely astonished, and a

bit lost for words as well. I can't wait to start. I've got a lot of ideas and now I can actually think about things I want to do. I've got a few months before I start the job but I can't wait. It's just an unbelievable feeling."

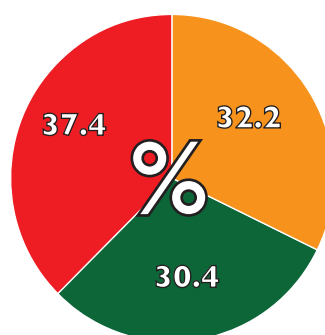
Richardson maintained his lead throughout the reallocation process. The closer contest through much of it was between Henry and former Cartmel President, Sam Fitton. At first preferences they were separated by just 0.5% of the vote.

Fitton was "a bit gutted obviously" about the end result but conceded that the better man had won. Henry was similarly complementary of the victor, although she urged Richardson to "fully

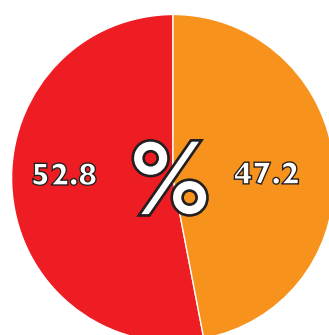
First preferences



RON and Parker reallocated



Fitton reallocated



at Sabbatical results night



Faces of victory:
From left, Michael Payne, who has been re-elected as LUSU President, and Sabbatical-elects Andrew Johnston, Danny Owens, Torri Crapper, Sue Wynes and Liam Richardson.
(Photos: Rob Miller and Ben Robins)

No surprises as Crapper sees off RON for VP EWD

by Sam Newsham
Deputy News Editor

TORRI CRAPPER WAS voted into new sabbatical position Vice-President for Equality, Welfare and Diversity in last Thursday's union election, as expected.

The race was uncontested after her only opponent, LUSU's current Sabbatical Women's Officer, Sara Dunn, withdrew from the election last weekend.

Taking the stage after her victory was confirmed, Crapper, of Grizedale College, thanked her campaign teams and everyone who had voted for her.

"It feels amazing, thanks so much for voting," she said. "I'm so happy I can't even make words!"

Crapper's campaign manager, Dan-

ni Gross, said "There's no one better for the job, no one better to ensure women's representation in LUSU."

Ms. Dunn, who announced the result, told SCAN "I've worked with Torri for a year and she's been an amazing asset. She's supported me through lots of different campaigns and the union is lucky to have someone as strong as she is and with her capacity to learn."

Crapper has been an active campaigner on campus for a variety of issues, including issues such as disability access and body image. She stated one of her main aims in the role will be to challenge the stigma surrounding mental health problems.

The final totals came in at 1216 votes for Crapper, and 205 votes to re-open nominations (RON).

Comms/ SCAN Editor

engage with all those involved in other student media groups, as demanded in the new job description."

She added: "I can't thank enough the wonderful team I had behind me, who helped me come so close to winning. The result has delivered an experienced, capable SCAN editor." Richardson himself gave credit to the other candidates saying "I thought they did a really good job and they battled so hard. We all got on really well throughout the campaign so it's a shame three of us had to lose."

An electronic fault meant that the announcement of the result had to be delayed for almost the minutes, adding even more tension to what was already

a highly charged contest. Richardson's campaign manager Tom Skarbek-Wazynski, President of Bowland JCR, was little short of a nervous wreck between it being announced that the votes were in, and the actual announcement of the winner.

"I'm just so proud he's got it," Skarbek-Wazynski said of Richardson afterwards. "It's absolutely brilliant. He deserved it so much He'll be amazing."

Current SCAN Editor, Dan Hogan, echoed this sentiments. He said of his successor: "I think Liam will make a fantastic editor and will build upon the work we've done this year in recreating and reinforcing SCAN and the student media."

'AJ 47' shoots to easy win over college-mate Banwait

by Lizzie Houghton
News Editor

WITH THE LARGEST margin of any contested election outside of the President's, Andrew Johnston won the race for Vice-President (Finance, Events, Democracy & Societies). Johnston beat fellow County student Sandeep Banwait with almost a third more of the vote. "I feel really, really good," Johnston said afterwards. "It's a bit weird at the moment but I've really enjoyed it."

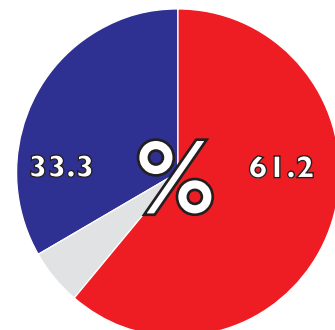
Johnston beat Banwait in all colleges, with the exception of Furness and Graduate. In their shared home ground of County Johnston picked up 77.4% of the vote. Banwait received 17.5%.

With the exception of democracy,

both candidates had run differing campaigns. Johnston had made a point of saying that safeguarding societies would be his "number one priority".

Speaking after results night he said that it is "essential that we create a clear set of goals that we can present to the University to keep societies functioning." He also spoke of facilitating the work already started by the Societies Council and the Societies Union Executive Committee in progressing the Societies Award because "it's a really great way to internally recognise the work of societies and hopefully something that will widen recognition and eventually participation with more students."

Current LUSU General Secretary, Janie Coleman, was full of praise for



Andrew Johnston
Sandeep Banwait
RON

Johnston, saying: "I think he's a cracking lad. He has his head screwed on properly and really gives a damn about the students which is vital for the role. I think he'll do a fantastic job."

The role of VP (FEDS) will be replacing that of General Secretary.

High-temperature contest ends in narrow Owens win

by Chris Davis
News Editor

VP ACADEMIC AFFAIRS was contested by current Academic Affairs non-Sabb Danny Owens and former Fylde president Simon Rimington. Each candidate had impressive union experience and had run active and visible campaigns, so a close result was expected. While both candidates mobilised the support of their respective colleges - who both awarded them huge majorities - it was Owens who narrowly secured victory, winning 743 votes to Rimington's 633.

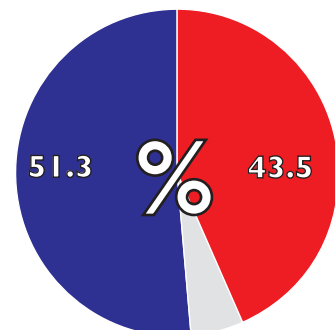
In his acceptance speech, Owens thanked his campaign team, and gave "a big shout out to Si Rimington" be-

fore promising that he would "not let students down", a sentiment he reiterated when SCAN spoke to him later in the evening.

"I will not break the promises I have made," he said. "Accountability is very important to me". His first priority would be to tackle the issue of graduate employability, something he intends to begin "straight away".

"Lancaster is a great University and its students deserve every chance to get a great degree". He thanked Lonsdale for his win, saying: "my own college really came out in support for me".

Rimington also viewed college support as vital, lamenting his inability to secure important votes in colleges such as Lonsdale and Furness. However, he congratulated Owens on his "fantastic



Simon Rimington
Danny Owens
RON

campaign", and praised the integrity of his campaign team, who "abided completely by the rules." He now plans to take a year out, before beginning to study for a PGCE qualification.

Fylde's Wynes outruns Farrell in VP Sports race

by Rob Maidstone

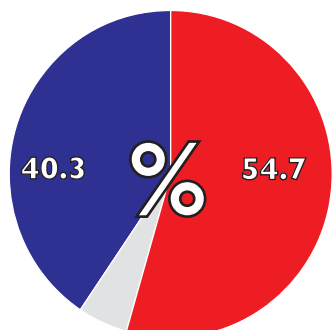
SUE WYNES CAME out as victor in the closely fought contest between her and Tan Farrell for Vice President (Sports). As the tallies from the separate colleges came in the result was uncertain. The announcement from each college's result was met with a mixture of gasps and cheers from the crowd.

During her acceptance speech Sue was very emotional claiming that she'd "probably cry like a typical girl." She managed to just hold it together saying: "I've wanted this since I started Uni." She voiced her admiration for her running opponent, Tan Farrell, claiming he was a "brilliant candidate" and

a worthy opponent. She concluded her short speech by promising the crowd: "I'll do you justice."

Gaz Coleman, current AU President, was full of respect for his newly appointed successor. "She's very passionate about sport," he told SCAN. He added that in these elections he was in a great position as he "couldn't lose" as both candidates - although "different" in their approaches - would do a great job. He added his admirations of how Sue had managed to win in a role which, in his view is quite often wrongly thought of as a man's job.

Speaking to SCAN directly after her victory Sue claimed she was "ecstatic" and "the happiest she'd ever been." When asked about her plans she claimed that in the short term she was



Sue Wynes
Tan Farrell
RON

"going to celebrate" but as for her plans for her term in office she aims to "make sport the biggest it's ever been" at the University and "do everyone who voted [for her] proud"

Her beaten rival, Tan Farrell, was not available for comment.

LUSU Sabbatical elections

Analysis: Where did all the voters go?



Dan Hogan
Editor

FOR THE SECOND year running, turnout in our Sabbatical elections is down on the previous year.

This falling turnout could easily be attributed to the supposedly worsening disconnection between students and their union; the lack of two-way 'engagement' which is so often talked about in LUSU circles. There is a lot of weight to this. For all the endless jaw-jaw in the 'bunker' and amongst JCR and union officers about the college bars, for example, the realities of student politics still seems a world away to a great many students.

The referendum that took place at the same time as the elections provides another example of this worsening apathy: For every 10 people who voted for the motion to adopt LUSU's impenetrable 'Strategic Direction' (a streamlined version of the union's Strategic Plan, believe it or not), for spoiled their ballot papers. They didn't oppose the aims contained in the document; they didn't have a view one way or the other.

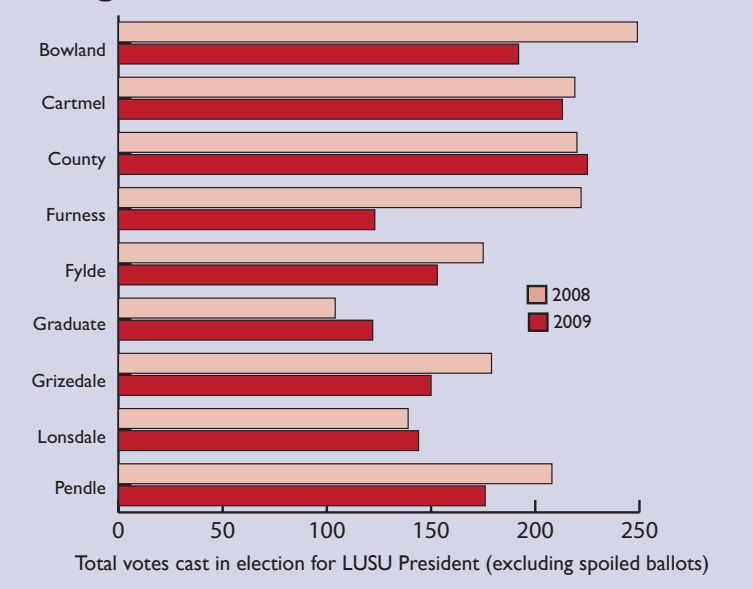
There are plenty of reasons to believe that there is a growing problem with students either not understand-

ing, or more likely not caring what happens in their union. But if anyone thinks that this election is the final answer to those who say that apathy is a myth, they're wrong. There are plenty of far more obvious excuses for low turnout in this election, before we need to get on to apathy.

Voters, students especially, are more inclined to turn out in an election if they think their vote will count for anything. Ergo, the more certain they are about the result, the less likely it is that they'll bother to have a hand in it. The three-way battle for LUSU President in 2007, fought between three former college presidents: Tom Halstead, Hetty Wooding, and the victor, Tim Roca; was exciting, and had students rushing to the polls in their droves compared to this election. But largely foregone conclusions, like Michael Payne against Andrew Payne last year, or Michael Payne against Pete MacMillan this year, just don't get people anywhere near as excited.

But of course, high-profile though the LUSU president is, compared to the other Sabbs, there are five other positions to elect as well. But in these, as well, the races were far less interesting this year. Five people, including two college presidents, ran for General Secretary in 2008; in 2009 only two ran for the equivalent VP FEDS position. Three people ran for Education & Welfare, and three for Women's Officer, but this year only two ran for Academic Affairs and Equality, Welfare & Diversity was uncontested. Whatever the reasons for it, only 12 candidates made it to polling day this year without pulling out. Last year, it was almost double that, with 22 candidates in the race.

College election turnout



You can see the effect of fewer candidates in the college turnouts. Furness turnout almost halved this year, which is almost certainly due to the lack of anyone from that college running in the elections. Last year, by comparison, Ed & Welfare victor, Dan Ratcliffe, drove up Furness turnout, as did three of the five candidates for SCAN Editor, and a candidate for General Secretary. Similarly, former Bowland president Janie Coleman pushed up her college's turnout, which undoubtedly helped Sara Dunn in her election as well. Though also victorious, this year's successful candidate for VP Media & Comms, Liam Richardson, also pushed Bowland out to vote. However, an assistant dean in the elections doesn't do the same for

college turnout as a former president does, hence the turnout drop.

Finally, this year's campaigns were lacklustre. Compared to last year, when (almost) all of the candidates seemed reasonably serious about fighting a winning campaign, the races were dull - even some of the people running in them seemed too lethargic to campaign, such was the lack of a visible presence for the candidates around the campus. All these things make a difference.

Maybe there is rising apathy among students for union politics. Maybe it's overstated. But whatever, the case, these turnout figures can be explained by plenty of other factors than just 'disengagement'.

What students said:

"It's part of a democratic procedure, it's important that we're given the opportunity to have our voices heard."

"Michael Payne and Liam Richardson seem to have been campaigning a lot so I voted for them."

"I'm in my third year so it doesn't matter to me," he said. "I'd want good people in the positions but I'm not really that bothered."

"Without decent representation the student body will be doomed to languish in the clutches of despondency."

"I don't think Michael Payne should be able to run again and I'd never heard of Pete MacMillan so I didn't vote anyone for President."

"I live off campus and I'm leaving soon so it's irrelevant. I won't be around much longer and I don't know much about it."

"I voted Robbie Pickles and Sue Wynes but the rest I did at random because I'd just seen names about."

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Gallon Challenge not for the faint hearted



by Rob Maidstone

SATURDAY MARCH 28 saw Fylde Bar host the college's annual Gallon Challenge.

Students from all over the University were invited to take part in the challenge, which involved drinking 8 pints (a gallon) of beer or 8 pints of milk for those who don't drink. Tick-

ets were in high demand on the night, with both Fylde JCR and the bar staff forced to give up their personal tickets (14 in total) to meet with the demand. This brought the total number of participants to 144, all of whom received a commemorative t-shirt, tankard, and free entry into the Sugarhouse. During the night Fylde Bar was filled with a great atmosphere, despite the disappointing result for the English in the Rugby Union Six Nations match,

which was shown on the big screen.

Many participants completed the challenge. However, according to Fylde JCR President James Duncan "quite a few people struggled with two of the lovely ales ... Black Cat and Moorhouse's Premier". Duncan went on to observe that, although many made it to the Sugarhouse: "only the hardcore participants survived till the end of the night."

Universities accused of 'socially engineering' student intake

by Chris Davis
News Editor

A NUMBER OF top universities across the country have been criticised for employing a system of "candidate profiling" that is claimed to give an unfair advantage to students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. Newcastle, Edinburgh, and Oxford are amongst the universities accused of basing their selection policy on the social and economic status of candidates, rather than purely on academic merit. In some cases, admissions tutors have been encouraged to give lower offers to candidates living in poorer locations, or to those who attended a badly performing school.

An investigation by the Daily Telegraph into Newcastle's selection policy revealed that applicants from "deprived postcodes", or whose school has poor GCSE or A-Level results, are identified using a system of labels. Admissions tutors are then told to consider these "contextual factors" when deciding whether to give the candidate an offer.

Critics have expressed concerns that the growing use of 'candidate profiling' by universities will ultimately punish

middle-class applicants, who they fear will be overlooked as universities seek to reach a 'quota' of students from certain backgrounds. Geoff Lucas, secretary of the Headmaster and Headmistress's conference, which represents the country's top private schools, told the Telegraph that universities are "running untried and untested elaborate mechanisms, which try to pick students to achieve Government widening participation targets."

Newcastle University has denied these accusations of social engineering. A spokesperson told The Telegraph that "contextual data" is only used if there is a "dead heat" between two candidates, or alternatively when a candidate "is on the borderline between acceptance and rejection." The government has recently criticised universities for failing to attract students from poorer backgrounds, singling out the top twenty 'Russell Group' Universities for particular condemnation. A House of Commons report had previously discovered that, despite government expenditure of over £400m, the proportion of socially disadvantaged students attending university had risen by only two percentage points from the last academic year.

Elite universities set to suffer as research funding grants revealed

THE COUNTRIES TOP Universities have lost out on significant levels of funding following a decision by the by the national funding council to spread its resources more widely. Several members of the elite 'Russell Group' of research intensive Universities are set to suffer, including Imperial College London, Cambridge, and LSE.

Last years Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) discovered that many of the UK's lower ranked Universities contained "pockets of excellence" in specific departments. Funding council HEFCE was accordingly faced with the question of whether to spread funds more widely, or to concentrate resources in the hands of the 'elite' Universities who topped the RAE table. It chose the former option, and the result has been that the proportion of funding received by Russell Group universities shrank from 65 per cent to 60 per cent.

Malcolm Grant, chair of the Russell Group, warned that the result for many universities could be the need to make significant cutbacks. Speaking to The Guardian, he stated that "If you don't receive a total grant that keeps pace with inflation, something has got to give. Some institutions will want to reduce staff or not hire new staff. It's going to be quite tight."

Unsurprisingly, the representative body of the 'post-92' group of universities, 'Million +', was more positive. Members of the body saw their share of research funding double from 1.5% to 3%. Pam Tatlow, chief executive of the group, praised the funding council HEFCE, stating that "By rewarding excellent research wherever it has been found, this settlement will boost innovation." Lancaster is set to receive a total of 47.2 million in funding, a 3.4% rise from last year.

Green leader to visit Lancaster

THE LEADER OF the Green Party, Caroline Lucas, will be speaking at the Hugh Pollard lecture theatre on the University of Cumbria's campus on March 19. The speech, for which admittance is free, will be titled 'Future Bleak to Future Green' and starts at 7pm. It is scheduled to take place before the Party's spring conference in Blackpool.

Ms. Lucas, MEP for the South East, was voted Politician of the Year by readers of the Observer in their 2007 Ethical Awards. She was also judged one the Guardian's top "eco-heroes" and is a Vice President of the RSPCA and the Stop the War Coalition.

Fylde rocks out with Oxjam

OXJAM WILL BE holding a live music event in Fylde Bar on Saturday March 14 in order to raise money for Oxfam. As well as live music in Fylde there will be a raffle draw followed on by an after-party in the Sugarhouse. There will be a free bus to the club as well as a reduced entrance fee on the door.

Oxjam is an offshoot of the charity Oxfam. It aims to raise money and get people interested in global issues through music.

The event starts at 8pm. More information can be found on the event's Facebook page: 'An Oxjam event in Fylde Bar (LU)'.

Colleges debate reaches final

THE LANCASTER UNIVERSITY Debating Society's inter-college competition drew to a close on Monday with a final between teams from County A, Bowland, Lonsdale and Cartmel colleges. The teams were as follows: County A, Ben Webster and Tom Webb; Bowland, Dominic King and Luke Gardner; Lonsdale, Alex Ludlam and Samantha Johnson; and Cartmel, Jenni Arding and Rosanna Spray.

COUNTY AND BOWLAND both went into the final with 10 points. Cartmel and Lonsdale broke with 7. Grizedale, Fylde, Furness and County B were all knocked out in the previous stage.

Membership of working party announced

THE MEMBERSHIP OF the college working group set up to discuss issues surrounding the future of the college system has been announced. It will consist of an international student, a home undergraduate student, a postgraduate and a President of one of the college JCRs although who these students will be has not yet been finalised.

It will also include Stanley Henig, Deputy Pro Chancellor, one college principle, Pro Vice-Chancellor (College & Student Experience), Amanda Chetwynd, and a LUSU nominee who will most likely be the LUSU President.

Nokia hold student dance competition

Nokia are hosting a dance competition for students across the country. The winner will be given £10,000 to hold a massive on campus party which will be staffed by the celebrity DJ.

Students are asked to either record their own version of the 'Nokia Tube Dance' or create their own dance. Neither should last longer than a minute. Entries must then be uploaded onto the Nokia Tube Dance Facebook page.

Judges Leigh Francis, comedian, and George Sampson will then select the funniest dance as the winner. The competition close on March 23.

scan:COMMENT



Rob Miller
Assistant Editor

Upholding life's value at the expense of its quality is nothing short of a travesty

Instead of resisting any impetus for change, our lawmakers should be looking to ape the Swiss system for assisted suicide, not block it

Last week, an elderly British couple travelled to Switzerland. He was 80, she 70. They kept their trip secret from all but their closest family; before leaving, they sold their £2m Bath home, lying to their neighbours that they were moving to Dorset.

Criminals on the run, perhaps? Debtors evading their creditors? Fraudsters fleeing from a con-job? No: their only crime was to suffer from terminal illnesses, and their punishment was to be forced to fly to Switzerland in order to die with dignity.

They both suffered from crippling terminal cancer. Peter Duff had colon cancer which had recently spread to his liver; his wife Penelope had a gastrointestinal stromal tumor, a particularly rare and aggressive form of stomach cancer which attacks the stomach wall.

They decided to fly to Switzerland rather than die painful, drawn out, and unlikely separate deaths, and enlisted the help of the Swiss company Dignitas. After being given a lethal dose of pentobarbital they died peacefully and together—the first British couple to travel together to Switzerland in order for both to commit suicide.

Their control over the way they ended their life was made possible by the Swiss legal system. Like in Britain, it is legal to commit suicide in Switzerland; but unlike in Britain, it is also legal to



assist another's suicide, provided your motivation is altruistic.

The company that helped them, Dignitas, is the only one of Switzerland's four assisted suicide groups that helps foreigners, and Switzerland is the only one of those jurisdictions in which assisted suicide is legal and openly practised that does not bar foreigners. This combination has made Dignitas the only option for Britons who wish to end their lives before they are taken over by a terminal and chronic illness.

Why, then, is our law so backward, so inhumane, and so dismissive of self-ownership? We place such an emphasis on palliative care, on making people comfortable as they slide—or more often, shudder—inexorably towards

death. We clearly recognise the pain and trauma involved in a protracted death; that there is pain not only for the sufferer, but also for their friends and family, watching their loved one degrade to a shadow of their former self. And yet we do not allow people to escape this grim fate if they so choose: we force them to experience every painful minute of it, and for what?

Critics of assisted suicide maintain that to legalise it would be to create a “culture of death”, devaluing life and encouraging suicide. Poppcock. Rates of suicide in Switzerland are roughly comparable to general European levels at 17.5 per 100,000 head of population. France's rate is 17.6, Germany's 13, the Netherlands' – in which assisted sui-

cide is also legal – 9.2, and the UK's 6.8. There exists no correlative relationship between legalised assisted suicide and suicide, let alone a causal one.

There is also criticism also that allowing assisted suicide would pressure those with terminal illnesses into committing suicide as a result of the burden placed on their carers—either through their own guilt or through the exhaustion of their loved ones. Again, poppycock. There are rigorous safeguards in place in the Swiss system to ensure that the patient's wish is a genuine one: firstly, the patient's illness must meet the medical standards of severity and terminality; secondly, the patient is given multiple chances to change their mind, with weeks and months between

the first and second consultations and multiple checks of consent in the hours and minutes before the suicide.

In addition, of those who are told they are eligible for an assisted suicide, 70% do not follow through; their consultation is simply for the peace of mind that they will always have the option of ending their suffering, should their condition and quality of life deteriorate considerably. It is clearly a peace of mind that such patients consider worthwhile.

So why can we not adopt the Swiss system in Britain? After all, the Council of Europe in 2002 strongly urged its member states, of which Britain is one, to consider decriminalising assisted suicide—a recommendation that was rebuffed by the British political system, all of whose parties seem unwilling to even consider the prospect.

Gordon Brown, speaking last year, said that British law must make absolutely clear the value of human life: in doing so, why must it ignore its quality? This is the same British law that forced the Duffs to die early, while they could still manage the trip; it forced them to travel in secrecy; and worst of all, it forced them to die in a strange city away from their family and friends. That this happened once is inhumane: that it will face any one of us who wishes to have control over their lives is a travesty.



Michael Payne
LUSU President

The year ahead will be a challenging one for students

With the bite of a recession in the UK taking its hold and a pending review of Higher Education in late 2009, next year looks set to be one of the most tumultuous and challenging for students in years.

2009 and beyond is set to be a challenging time for students. The single most pressing issue has to be the impact of the economic downturn. Rising food and fuel prices will impact students and their low disposable income the most, and families feeling the pinch will naturally be more reluctant to send their children to university. Meanwhile, a worryingly sharp national downturn in graduate employment prospects is crippling the opportunities of today's students in tomorrow's job market. Graduate employment vacancies are down 5.4% on last years numbers and the Top 100 Employers have reduced graduate recruitment by 17%.

Closer to home, we face day by day developments on the management of the colleges and their bars, as well as

encroachment upon students limited free time as lectures are consistently scheduled on Wednesday afternoons, in defiance of university policy.

But whilst the future may – at face value – look dim for students, the reality is that we are ready to meet the challenges we will face head on; we have better relationships than ever with our JCRs and our union officers are more innovative than ever. What's more the new Sabbatical roles that we now have will allow our full time officers to focus specifically on the challenges that lie ahead. With a furtherance of our volunteering and entrepreneurial opportunities through LUVU and Create we can build on the 385 student volunteers we already have, who not only provide valuable support the region and local communities but also obtain invaluable skills for themselves.

Furthermore the dramatic reforms that have taken place within LUSU over the last two years, may not have meant much to everyday students during their inception, but their relevance

to them will be proved throughout this coming year. Whilst there is still more to be done to make sure that students can be proud of their union and the work it does, they should be assured that LUSU's eyes are wide open to the obstacles and hurdles that lie ahead.

Students must also realise that we have successfully faced such challenges before. The decline in graduate employment opportunities is nowhere near as bad as the 32% and 14% declines in 1991 and 1992 respectively. And the National Union of Students' more realistic and informed approach to government higher education policy is sure to produce a more fruitful outcome than the narrow four vote loss on tuition fees into higher education in 2004.

Within our own union, a more dynamic and wide-ranging media stream will allow us to better our communication with students, while concentration on the academic agenda means we are ready for the fight on tuition fees and the higher education review as a whole. Similarly, an open and clear definition

of our equality, welfare and diversity agenda will allow us to understand and appreciate the benefits of our diverse population of students.

The new Sabbatical roles will also have more direct oversight responsibility for key departments and areas within the union. Wider opportunities will be possible within Student Activities, allowing students to broaden their skills set and CVs whilst here, LUVU and Create will have direct support from officers, and the opportunities for cross-remit collaboration on key projects for students will be far greater.

So, whilst the daily news may spell doom and gloom, and whilst politics can often bring out the worst in people, it is vital for us to remember that people can often bring out the best in politics and create change for the better. In the year ahead we can and we will demonstrate that our collective contributions to debates are not just hollow criticisms but real solutions to real problems.



Latin America needs more people like Hugo Chavez

by Liam Kay

The rise of the left wing in Latin America has thrown up many influential figures in the last few years, from Evo Morales in Bolivia to Raul Castro in Cuba. But few remain so divisive and have provoked such debate as of Hugo Chavez, the president of Venezuela who, since rising to power over 10 years ago, has almost single-handedly ensured the survival of the anti-American sentiment in Latin America.

The sentiment isn't one way. Barack Obama accused Chavez of threatening the growth of democracy within Latin America. But is Chavez really the real threat to stability and democracy within the Americas? I don't think so.

Chavez has taken it upon himself to promote two main aims through his foreign policy: produce trade and diplomatic links with nations that oppose modern day American imperialism, and strive to protect the Venezuelan and South American economies with his trade agreement, ALBA; which also has Cuba, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Honduras and Dominica as signatories. Perhaps, rather than a threat to stability within Latin America, this is actually a unifying gesture.

Perhaps it is actually his attitude toward Colombia that has gotten the US's back up. Chavez has been accused of funding terrorism by supporting the militant group FARC. But whilst Chavez is wrong to fund FARC, their existence is evidence of the dissatisfaction with the status quo under corrupt regimes supported by American interference, such as Colombia.

Chavez has stridden to ensure the well-being of his people and of the common man throughout the Americas. His 'Bolivarian' campaigns, named after the man who secured independence for much of South America from Spanish imperial rule, are intended to improve the lives of his people. Furthermore, he has used his nation's oil wealth to help support allies within the region in what can only be described as an attempt to promote governments that he sees as caring for their people.

He may have truly got under the skin of America but the failure of the 2002 coup against him, when millions of people took to the streets to demand his return, surely says something about how he has gained the support and trust of his people.

America hates Chavez. America's Latin American allies such as Colombia hate Chavez. They hate what Chavez represents: the rejection of continued American dominance on the continent. Whilst Washington continues to advocate America's stranglehold over Latin America, maybe it is time to listen to what the people in the slums and shantytowns of South America want. And what they truly want, and need, are more leaders like Chavez.



Liam Richardson
Editor-elect

Our student media is changing, and its potential is still huge

The developments in our media this year have been staggering - so imagine what it can achieve as one

Last November, I wrote a highly critical comment piece on the handling of the Sabbatical Review. Although the means may not have justified the end, the outcome of the review was largely beneficial to the student population. The majority of the focus centred on the logical step to expand and broaden the Women's Officer remit to include all liberation activities and maintain the AU remit as a separate entity to societies.

But in my opinion, the single most important development that stemmed from the review was the expansion of the SCAN Editor's remit to include all forms of student media: Bailrigg FM, LUTube, LU Cinema, the Student Media Team and all the relevant college JCR media and publicity officers.

For too long, the union has been behind the times; unwilling or unable to play catch-up and embrace the 21st century media revolution. Student media at this university has been fragmented and un-cohesive. If we want to reach out and connect with students we need a unified and visible presence with an image that students can identify with and communicate through.

Never has it been more important, in these times of such supposed apathy, to communicate effectively and listen and engage with student opinions.

A unified student media is the only way in which we, as a student's union, can be a force to be reckoned with. If we wish to make ourselves heard by the outside media or force the university to listen to some of our qualms and grievances, then it is vitally important for all our media services to work together and sing from the same song sheet, and promote the union's ideals to the student population in a manner in which they can understand, and with a message that treats them with intelligence without ever patronising them.

All the different forms of student media have acquired a range of varied expertise over recent years and this moment, here and now, represents our perfect, maybe unique, opportunity to utilise our pool of talent in a manner that is most effective. We need to stimulate new ideas together, share experiences, be creative and move forward together to offer the students of Lancaster University a student media

that they can be proud of and want to participate and engage with.

Student media has a dual responsibility. It should not only inform and entertain the student body; offer them a myriad of different methods of disseminating information that the union must provide. Student media should also provide opportunity. The media has developed beyond all recognition due to the digital revolution and we must advertise and promote the various skills and experience that Lancaster's journalists, designers, technicians or presenters of tomorrow can acquire.

Never before has there been greater diversity and choice for students wishing to sample the radically different forms of media, whether it be radio, television or print journalism; technical or creative roles; management and organisational opportunities or marketing and publicity based training. This staggering wealth of opportunity has to be made as available as possible, and presented to next year's freshers as a student media that is whole, not as individual, separate and possibly incompatible. We must prove that we can be greater than the sum of our parts, and

we must work together to make a success of our future.

Student media has already seen some solid foundations laid in place this year. SCAN has radically improved, a base on which to progress further. Bailrigg FM has flourished, re-branded and re-launched. LUTube is becoming ever more ambitious, creative and confident in its vision; the recent election coverage all the evidence that it needs that it has the capacity to grow and develop further with the right support. LU Cinema has had another successful year and thanks to excellent publicity has seen strong attendances. The JCR officers working under various titles; whether it is Publicity, Media, Magazine Editor or Webmaster have undertaken their work enthusiastically, and with a Sabbatical Officer now looking after their interests, can only improve the perception and publicity of their colleges further. If the various student media can achieve all this alone, imagine what the next year may bring, working together with a shared vision. Exciting times lie ahead.



Alex Harris

The monster of terrorism has made the US its own beast

America should know by now that brutality brings short-term gains with long-term disaster

Across the world; a prisoner sits alone in a near-empty room. The past few days have gotten better; the screams from next door have stopped, perhaps as a result of the inmate next door's ending of his hunger strike; or perhaps his captors have just pushed him over that limit that everyone in this complex has been so close to. The deep cuts and bruises on his arms, legs and stomach have started to sting a bit less and the swelling on his left eye has gone down; to the point where it doesn't hurt so much to blink anymore. Last night he was even allowed a few hours sleep. He hasn't had any beatings in a few days; presumably because they're still trying to chase up the junk information he gave to them during the last 'interrogation', just so they would stop, if only for a second. There's a strange feeling in the air; the guards seem more nervous than before; as if something big is about to come. Chained to the floor, he looks up at the low ceiling, sighs and in this isolation begins to ponder whether he will ever get out of this place. He is, after all, totally innocent.

The more that comes out about Guantanamo Bay, the more we find that stories like this are not rarities attributable to a few bad apples or simple Stanford Prison Experiment-esque abuses of power. Rather, the orders for torture, mistreatment of prisoners and, yes, the detention of innocents into this environment came from as high up as Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld themselves. It's a shock to the system even for those who understand America's notoriously reckless foreign policy. It's even more of a shock to hear that our



government was complicit in this sort of action.

Closer to home, one almost feels sorry for David Milliband. The lies he has been forced to tell would be difficult to manufacture, even for New Labour's notoriously efficient and sneaky spin department. The Bush Administration's playground bully-style posturing about an end to UK and US intelligence-sharing policy if information about a tortured prisoner was released to the public is, according to Milliband "not a threat." Evidence of governmental malpractice and violations of international law is to be treated as sensitive information, which is "critical to national security." It's difficult to believe that Milliband makes his statements with true conviction; it seems absurd than anybody could believe such nonsense.

There is a very real and very clear threat to both UK and US national se-

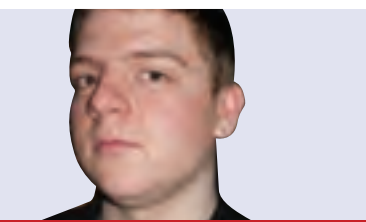
curity in this issue. The immorality of torture is self-evident to any thinking person. The political ammunition it gives to real enemies of the state is perhaps less so. According to the United States' own Military Commissions act, the admission of evidence extracted by cruel, inhumane or degrading punishment is disallowed. The idea that a truly dangerous and motivated war criminal could be set free due to the United States' own practices should be shocking to us, but the fact that such wanton disregard for the law of their own land, and indeed the world, has already occurred, should be truly terrifying.

It is often said that one who fights with monsters should make sure to not in turn become a monster. In fighting those who hold the atrocities of September 11 in the same sort of high regard as a Christian would hold the Sermon on the Mount, the US government has created a monster out of itself.

Though such practices are not new or even uncommon to hear about for any citizen who cares to read about world powers, it remains the duty of world citizens to form, as America's founding fathers put it, "a more perfect union."

By manufacturing a nonexistent rift between the philosophy of the enlightenment and the philosophy of national security and, in turn, between the philosophies of the West and the East, the US has become its own worst enemy. History proves that the most violent and brutal methods of obtaining power always prove to be the most inefficient in the long-term.

For all the pessimism we may have, however, the Islamic world remains optimistic about the current US leadership; and the calm, reserved diplomacy may prove to be the best weapon that we have against what seems to be a real and dangerous threat. It is a shame that we did not realise this eight years ago.



Wes Cosgriff

Open your eyes to the alternatives

The elections are over. Despair and hope ring in the ears of victors and losers; supporters of both parties celebrate and jeer. Alcohol flows freely. The date? 2010. The election? National. The winners? The Conservatives.

I am sure that many among you are despairing at the thought of a Tory government: twelve long, long years of Labour rule hasn't been enough for you. Labour: the party who had the opportunity to leave an unprecedented legacy based on a decade of economic growth, is instead the party which squandered the chance for change. Labour, that secured its historic first third-term victory for the British population, is also the party that has, simply put, failed.

Years of growth, founded upon Thatcherite and Ken-Clarkian policies, have ended with a country now poorly governed, chaotic and, quite frankly, terrifyingly mismanaged by the Prime Minister and ex-Chancellor, Gordon Brown. He has created his own man-

date: he has never enjoyed the people's mandate. Led by Mr Brown, and Mr Blair before him, this Labour government has removed the pride we once had in our great nation, destroying the fire of greatness briefly rekindled in the 1980s. We have plummeted to a depth of economic disaster much worse than any known since Wall Street, 1929. We have once again become the 'sick-man of Europe' and now, surely, the world.

The Labour government has, after eleven years of economic growth, sanctioned a spending-splurge that will cost the people more than the national debt caused by fighting the First World War. The debt shall be a generation's 'pound of flesh' and has robbed us, today's students who will be the next working population of Britain, of the chance to have economic stability and prosperity.

It is probably a year away, but consider the next election wisely: look at the errors of New Labour, and see what must be rectified. To those of you

who unfailingly vote Red, loyalty to the party whom you so zealously support is to be commended but Labour has reduced its credibility to zero, so I ask this of you: at least consider the alternatives.

If you cannot bring yourself to cast a Conservative vote, then why not Liberal, Green or even Communist? Use your ballot as a protest. Blindly voting Labour, as if out of habit, is surely little better than those so often criticised by the Left: little better than the patriot who cannot see his country, his government, as being wrong under any circumstances. Take a stand: be willing to vote against the party that has been so heavily involved in fostering British involvement in the planet's worst economic crisis since the late Twenties. The Labour Party must learn from its mistakes, so it may grow and be worthy of you.

Our strong country needs a strong government – and a strong opposition, which is where Labour needs to be.

scan

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

SCAN bias?

"THE BIGGEST LIES are told before the marriage, after the hunt, and during elections," according to Otto Van Bismark. He was probably right, and the Sabbatical elections last week were no exception. But exactly who has been telling those lies is a matter of some contention.

The coverage of the election candidates in the last issue was a first for SCAN. Never before had the paper sought to interview each candidate for a Sabbatical post, with the intention of grilling them to discover how well considered their ideas were, or how worthy their candidacy. Though not every position's candidates received that grilling, the experiment was a success.

Not everyone thought so. At least one of the candidates for VP Media & Comms / SCAN Editor thought the write-up of the interview in the paper made them look foolish, and emphasised their weaknesses over their strengths. If so, that is exactly what we intended.

Candidates don't need any help getting their own message out. They can put up posters, give out flyers, and speak to students without their spin, rhetoric (and unfortunately, occasionally even brazen lies) ever being challenged. The people who do need help are the voters, to cut through that distortion in order to form a better idea of who is worthy of their vote, and who is not. The interviews set out to do that, to provide a check on the unfiltered, undistilled spin that candidates need no prodding to disseminate.

That is not to say that SCAN set out with an agenda – prejudicially deciding who would get a hard time in an interview and who would get a cakewalk. It set out to challenge candidates' on their ideas, and see how they responded. Everyone was given the same length of rope; some made ladders, while some chose to hang themselves with it.

And of course, when a candidate let slip a highly controversial (or down-right stupid) idea during interview, we reported it, because people have a right to know what candidates actually think when they're asking for their votes. But all the while, it was left up to the readers to make their own conclusions.

Anyone who expects SCAN to cover elections in a way that will keep the candidates happy is missing the point entirely. We could airbrush out every blemish on every candidate, and present everyone as an equally worthy candidate, but that would be dishonest, and would defeat the entire point of giving coverage to the elections at all: to give voters the chance to cast a better-informed vote.

Candidates who think they came across badly in the interviews compared to others, need to ask themselves a question: if they think they look bad on reflection, were they really that suitable as candidates in the first place?

Letters to the Editor



Send your letters to scan@lancaster.ac.uk together with you name and college (even if you would like your letter printed anonymously). Letters longer than 150 words (not including signature) will be shortened. SCAN reserves the right to edit your letters for publication.

Payne in the neck

Having attended the byelection hustings for non-sabbatical officers last week, I feel I must point out the hilarity of Michael Payne's question to the NUS Conference candidates. He said he was asking a question because their answers would help "ordinary" students to make a decision. It made me question whether Mr. Payne had looked very hard at the people in that room. I recognised about 90% of the people who attended the hustings as either union officers, JCR officers or SCAN journalists. I myself am none of these things, and so count myself and my flat-mate who also attended as the only "ordinary" students in that room.

LUSU desperately needs to make itself and the things it does more known and more approachable in this university. I don't believe as many people as LUSU might think actually know or care about what goes on within it. What good is a union that "cares about its students" if its students don't care about their union?

An "Ordinary" Student

(Sent before previous issue)
I just picked up the latest copy of Scan, or as I'm renaming it - 'The Michael Payne Fanzine.'

We're told of his standing ovation winning speech over the title page and page 4, this includes a discussion of

his superiority over previous LUSU Presidents, and derision for anyone who choses to cut short his moment of glory; page 10 he pulls out of Strictly Come Dancing; page 13 he's off to Downing Street; page 16 the man himself speaks!

Glad to see how well balanced SCAN is these days.

Emily Riley
Graduate College

Editor's response

I make no apology for the frequency with which the president of the our own students union appears in SCAN. The president is the primary spokesperson for the union, the main negotiator with the university on behalf of union members and the one person with the greatest influence over the policy of the union. So it is hardly surprising that his actions or his words are often worth reporting in the pages of SCAN.

Had LUSU not been left without an Education & Welfare Officer this year, the president would be quoted less often, but SCAN needs to get the union line on news stories from somewhere, and the union president is usually best placed to give those quotes.

Dan Hogan
Editor, SCAN

LUSU & democracy

Many believe that LUSU does not promote it's democratic processes enough to the ordinary student, however after the last few weeks I can only think otherwise. Why?... because of the immense amount of time and effort that went in to the week 9 elections and referenda to make it possible. Therefore I would like to say some massive thank yous. Firstly to the Chief Returning Officer, Kat Goulding, and Elections Sub Committee (the JCR Chairs) who promoted the elections through the colleges and with their JCRs, and who helped run the polling stations. Secondly to SCAN, LUTube and Bailrigg FM whose coverage of the elections this year was second to none and much more advanced and creative than ever before. Thank you to the Candidates and their campaign teams for getting out there and engaging with our membership. Hats off to the Union staff who helped us run all aspects of the elections including a huge promotional push of elections via Squeak, Bubble, democracy.lusu.co.uk, postering and flyering. Finally, and most importantly, thanks to those of you who voted - the turnout paid testament to how much students give a damn about our Union.

Democracy isn't dead - it's alive and fighting and this last set of elections certainly made that clear, whether people choose to believe it or not.

Janie Coleman
LUSU General Secretary

Is it just me or is anyone else sick of seeing posters/flyers/stickers from pubs, clubs or eateries in town plastered all over our PRIVATE residences? It isn't the University or Union's fault as having complained to both before they have made it explicitly clear to these persistent individuals that they should not be doing it unless they pay to - just like everyone else. Instead they continue to do it and insist on invading our personal and private space. Do we come into your homes and throw crap everywhere? No we don't. So back off and stop doing it to us.

Grumpy Graduate

Sports Reps have a responsibility to find the best

In response to the letter 'Carter Shield unbalanced' (Feb 26), I certainly agree that Fylde's presence at the Carter Shield Table Tennis tournament was probably intimidating to some, however I would like to point out that our main rivals, County, who also fielded a team which consisted mainly of University players, were in fact disqualified.

I don't believe that it is clear to students what the actual purpose of the Carter Shield is; however, it is my belief that the purpose of the Carter Shield is to find the best sporting college. I know for a fact there are many members of the Table Tennis Club who were not approached by their college;

which is a responsibility of College Sports Reps, to ensure they find the best players. Only a couple of colleges approached me, to ask if any members of their college played in the University team.

If the 'Anon' writer wanted to play in a fun and competitive Table Tennis league, then he/she should have entered the B-Active Table Tennis league which was specifically designed for non-University Table Tennis players.

Don't blame Fylde, blame your Sports Reps. There are players at this University who are capable of giving Fylde a good match, but some colleges just don't know who they are.

Robin Honey, Fylde College
President, Table Tennis Club

I'm happy to see that the Arts sec-

tion is once again flowing with imagination and creativity. Last issue they had not one, but two nearly identical photos of a man crouching over a women in a state of undress. Not that I object to seeing Brad Pitt in a state of undress, I just expected more of the section which, arguably, attracts the most creative writers.

Having said that, I am surprised to see recently more photos taken by members of the News team for their articles than the Arts team. I would again have presumed that Arts would be more interested in picture composition than News. The same applies for Music - which, incidently, I'm seeing less and less of with each coming issue. I expected more imagination from these sections.

A (slightly disappointed) Creative Mind

"What good is a union that 'cares about its students' if its students don't care about their union?"

ACTIVE
play sport - be active

tennis tournament

summer weeks 1&2
sign up now

www.lusu.co.uk/sports/bactive

Facilities provided by Lancaster University Sports Centre

One World Week '09

Week of events to focus on conflict

- County, Gz carbon comp prizes to be awarded
- Events to coincide with Comic Relief

Ashutosh Kumar

WEEK NINE IS set to see one of the largest cross campus events of the academic year get underway: Lancaster's 'One World Week'.

The week long series of events will offer a number of planned activities, speakers and socials, aiming to raise awareness of global injustices, inequality and the environment. The event is organised and run by students, with a variety of student groups, societies and organisations contributing in a multitude of different ways.

A national initiative, One World Week was set up in 1978 to present an annual opportunity for local groups to challenge inequality, discrimination, and degradation, whilst bringing together diverse groups of people to share in a common affirmation of global humanity. Lancaster's One World Week will focus on a specific issue or campaign every day of week nine, with each day of the week having a different overriding theme that is reflected in the activities on offer.

Monday's focus is around the issue of diversity, and planned activities include a stall selling recycled goods in Alexandra Square and a 'juggle for justice' display at the Chaplaincy Centre, which later also hosts a 'creativity evening' showcasing a diverse selection of dance and poetry. Tuesday's theme, however, is more serious, focussing on conflict. The emphasis of the activities on this day will be campaigning, cul-

minating in a vocal protest against the university's attitude to ethical investment.

One World Week Chairperson, Nat Walker, stressed the issue's importance, saying that students should expect "the money we bring to the university be spent in a manner which is ethical, and does not damage the world by promoting and endorsing conflict".

The theme on Wednesday is justice, and will see talks on issues ranging from global trafficking, conflict in the developing world, and 'Rape as a Weapon of War'. The day will also see fundraising by the student-run project 'Kickstart Kenya', an organisation set up to support homeless children in Ruiru, Kenya. Kickstart will then host a charity vegetarian lunch the following day, as part of Thursday's focus on environmental and green issues.

A range of events are planned to fit into the 'green' theme, from a driving simulator in George Fox Foyer that gives students the chance to see how fuel efficient they can be, to a cycle ride from campus to Lancaster's Millennium Bridge. Thursday afternoon also sees the awards ceremony for the university 'Carbon Competition', in which the Grizedale or County eco-residence with the lowest carbon footprint will receive a cash prize.

Friday of week 9, which coincides with Red Nose Day, has charitable activities taking place throughout the afternoon, and closes with the return of the cross-campus bar crawl 'Friday Fury', which will have a 'Red Nose' theme.

Guantanamo Bay

The US detention centre in Guantanamo Bay has faced much opposition in the past seven years for its lack of human rights. New president, Barack Obama, has begun making plans to shut this. Find out more on Tuesday at 12:30 in the Chaplaincy.

Lancaster

Lancaster University still has shares in a number of ethically unsound companies, most notably arms manufacturer, BAE Systems. Make some noise about it on Tuesday, 14:00, in Alexandra Square.

Golan Heights

Eden Springs uses the natural water supplies from the Golan Heights, denying that water to locals. Lancaster University buys water coolers from Eden Springs. LUSU have provisionally agreed to end their contract with Eden Springs, and use an ethical water company instead.

Amazon Rainforest

Deforestation in the Amazon reduces the number of trees fixing atmospheric nitrogen, thereby contributing to the greenhouse effect. A student tree planting will take place on Friday at 14:00, meeting in Alexandra Square.

Hawaii

A United Nations environmental report estimates there are 46,000 pieces of plastic debris floating on or near the surface of every square mile of ocean. On Tuesday, 20:00, there will be a screening of a film about the effects of the plastic plague upon Hawaii's habitat, and what can be done.

Democratic Republic of Congo

The Violence in the DRC is just one of the conflicts which has witnessed the use of women as weapons of war. Soldiers and combatants are using rape to subjugate communities. Learn more on at 20:00 on Wednesday in Furness LT1.

Monday Diversity	Tuesday Conflict	Wednesday Justice	Thursday Green	Friday Red Nose Day
Throughout Day Alexandra Square Selling goods made from recycled products by deaf people in Iring Tanzania.	Throughout day Alexandra Square Installation of 'Boards of Peace' with incense and white poppies to show commitment to non-conflict.	Throughout Day Alexandra Square Kickstart fundraising	Throughout day Alexandra Square Organic Garden stall and veg market	1100-1500 Chaplaincy Centre Hindu Society cooking for the homeless
1230 Chaplaincy Centre BBQ with poi and 'Juggle for Justice' display	1230 Chaplaincy Centre Talk on Guantanamo Bay detention camp from a UN perspective	1300 Fylde LT1 Workshop on people trafficking	0800-0845 Millennium Bridge to Campus Mass commuter cycle from Millennium Bridge to campus via Chancellor's Wharf (8.15). Look out for the red jacket!	1300-1500 Alexandra Square Open mic comedy stand for Red Nose Day
1400 Chaplaincy to Lake Carter Procession from Chaplaincy Centre to Lake Carter, ending with the launching of a floating garden raft representing how Bangladesh is being affected by climate change	1400 Alexandra Square 'Make some noise' about the need for Ethical Investment by the University. Protest with instruments and megaphones.	1500 Venue TBC Teach-in on the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo	1100-1600 George Fox Foyer Smarter Driving Simulator to improve fuel-efficiency	1400 (Meet at) Alex. Square Tree planting
1930 Chaplaincy Centre Creativity evening with dance and poetry	2000 Chaplaincy Centre 'Hawaii: Message In The Waves' Film on how to live without plastic.	1800 Furness LT1 Media workshop on 'Rape as a Weapon of War', followed by open discussion.	1300 Chaplaincy Centre Kickstart fundraising lunch	Night Sugarhouse Red Nose themed Friday Fury
			1400 Elizabeth Livingstone LT Awards and Presentation for eco-residences carbon Competition with Donnachadh McCarthy speaking on sustainable living.	

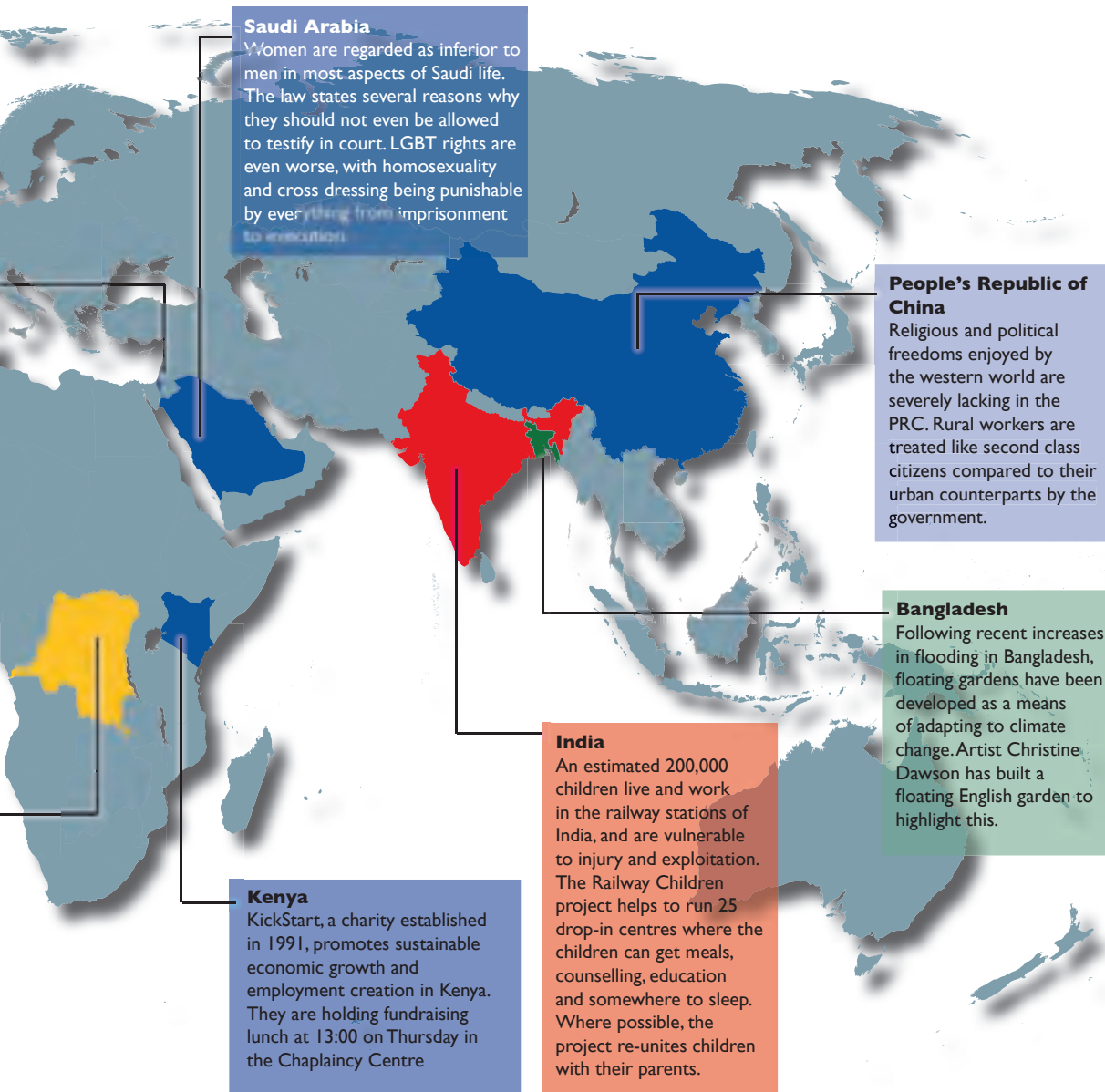
Nat Walker

Chair,
One World Week

ONE WORLD WEEK is run autonomously by students from across campus, who work together to organise a whole week of events. These events highlight and promote a variety of issues which students feel are of relevance and importance to the wider world, the one world we have. This year we are considering issues of diversity, conflict, water provision, social justice, equality, environment and many more, there are a range of different events to get involved with, so please feel welcome to share with others your vision of a better world.



et, justice and the environment



Saudi Arabia
Women are regarded as inferior to men in most aspects of Saudi life. The law states several reasons why they should not even be allowed to testify in court. LGBT rights are even worse, with homosexuality and cross dressing being punishable by everything from imprisonment to execution.

People's Republic of China
Religious and political freedoms enjoyed by the western world are severely lacking in the PRC. Rural workers are treated like second class citizens compared to their urban counterparts by the government.

Bangladesh
Following recent increases in flooding in Bangladesh, floating gardens have been developed as a means of adapting to climate change. Artist Christine Dawson has built a floating English garden to highlight this.

India
An estimated 200,000 children live and work in the railway stations of India, and are vulnerable to injury and exploitation. The Railway Children project helps to run 25 drop-in centres where the children can get meals, counselling, education and somewhere to sleep. Where possible, the project re-unites children with their parents.

Kenya
KickStart, a charity established in 1991, promotes sustainable economic growth and employment creation in Kenya. They are holding fundraising lunch at 13:00 on Thursday in the Chaplaincy Centre

Make some noise about ethical investment

Nat Walker
People & Planet Soc.

THERE HAVE BEEN a number of student-led campaigns to get the university to adopt an ethical investment policy. These events have included petitions, 'die-ins' and debates, all with the aim of encouraging the university to divest from arms companies, such as BAE Systems, in which it has shares.

Though the university are making progress, considering and discussing the adoption of a corporate social responsibility code, it is vital that at this time we reiterate the message students have sent before: that we wish the

money we bring to the university be spent in an ethical manner that does not damage the world by promoting and endorsing conflict.

On Tuesday of One World Week, students will be protesting in Alexandra Square against the university's investment in the arms trade. There will be a chance to sign large and visible petitions around the square, and, more excitingly, the chance to make lots of noise, using megaphones and instruments, as well as vocal chords! Hopefully this noisy protest will persuade the university to follow through on its promises and act more decisively to make Lancaster University a more ethical place to study.

Rape as a weapon of war

Caz Swan
Amnesty Int. Society

RAPE HAS ALWAYS been used as a weapon of war. Yet it is only in the last few years that this grim fact has been officially recognised as a war crime and a crime against humanity; despite the overwhelming evidence that violence against women has been endemic in conflicts for centuries. Rape is used to subdue, to humiliate, to divide and to isolate. The victims are very often overlooked, forgotten and marginalised in the chaos and destruction of war.

Even in societies where conflict has ended, and where on the surface things appear to be peaceful, the long term ef-

fects of sexual violence as a weapon of war cannot be ignored; the consequences of rape stay with a community for a lifetime. Despite this, it is still very rare that the perpetrators of sexual violence during conflicts are actually brought to justice, and this is the focus of Amnesty International's new campaign.

For One World Week, the Amnesty International Society wants to help raise awareness of the long-term damage caused by sexual violence in conflicts and the lack of justice for its victims. Come along to Furness LT1 at 6pm on Wednesday of Week 9 (11th March) and find out what positive action you can take to help the victims of this sadly all too widespread atrocity.

Green guru will make eco-awards

Tom Roberts
GreenLancaster

"CLIMATE CHANGE IS the greatest environmental challenge facing the world today. The effects will be felt globally, as rising sea levels threaten the very existence of some small island states and put millions of people at risk. Temperature increases, drought and flooding will affect people's health and way of life, and cause the irreversible loss of many species of plants and animals."

That is according to the recently formed government Department of Energy and Climate Change. Concentrations of the greenhouse gases which are behind climate change (CO₂, methane and nitrous oxide) in the atmosphere have now reached the highest levels for tens of thousands of years.

As a part of One World Week, environment guru and eco-

house dweller Donnachadh McCarthy will give a talk on how to live a low carbon lifestyle. Donnachadh converted home has solar electric panels, solar hot water panels, a rain-harvesting system, wood-burner, wind-turbine and catalytic converter gas fire.

His house is a net exporter of electricity a carbon negative home— his house last year had a net carbon footprint of minus 114 Kg, exporting more green electricity than it imported from fossil fuels.

As well as his talk, Donnachadh will be awarding the much-coveted cash prizes for the top performing eco-residences in Grizedale and County colleges. The carbon competition has provided an incentive and awareness for students and staff to really think about what they are using. His presentation is likely to inspire the audience to take further action in their workplaces and home lives.

The floating farms of Bangladesh

Christine Dawson

BANGLADESH, THE MOST crowded nation on earth (144,000 per sq km; compare that to the 246 per sq km in the UK), is set to disappear under the waves by the end of this century.

The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – whose predictions have consistently turned out to be underestimates – said that Bangladesh is on course to lose 17% of its land and 30% of its food production by 2050. For America this would be equivalent to California and New York State drowning. Most of the land in Bangladesh is particularly low-lying. If sea levels were to rise by just one metre, 50% of Bangladesh would vanish into the Bay of Bengal.

Because of the low-lying land, and the rising sea waters, a process called 'saline inun-

dation' is causing salt water is welling up in thousands of villages in Bangladesh, killing their trees and crops and contaminating their drinking water. Bangladesh is on the front line front of climate change and our western lifestyles are accelerating the process.

To compensate for their shrinking crop space, many farmers have begun using 'floating gardens' to grow sustenance crops. The living rafts are built from bamboo and water hyacinth, upon which crops can be grown.

To show the anomalies in our lifestyles I have created an art installation called 'Floating English Garden'. On Monday, March 9 at 12:30, we are having a BBQ in the Chaplaincy Centre and then we will have a procession to Lake Carter to launch my installation.

All proceeds from the BBQ will be donated to Practical Action Bangladesh.

Green living can be everyone's reality

Rozanna Shah
Green Living Society

CLIMATE CHANGE IS a huge problem that isn't going away. We have all heard the "buzz" words of climate change global warming and the Green house effect, but one the thing things we quite often don't think about is the carbon release in the food we buy, through the transport (food miles) and packaging.

One of the ways Lancaster is combating this is with the organic garden where students can grow food right here on campus and recycling food waste by decomposing it in a wormery; all part of the new green living society that give students tips and projects to help promote sustainable living.

It is important for students to consider the impact of their consumption, both in terms of the great distances that food is flown from abroad to UK shelves,

and in terms of the packaging it comes in. We can reduce both these food miles and the use of packaging remarkably by eating fruit and veg grown right here, on campus. The organic garden was always intended to be a resource for students and we now hope to give it back to them. The project allows students to either individually or communally grow their own food with help from exec members. Students may provide as much volunteering as they wish, although it does involve a regular commitment.

Anyone interested in joining this new society can sign up for membership at in the square on Thursday all you need is your purple card and £2.

Also on Thursday green Lancaster will be holding a "turn off the red light" which will give information about the impact that leaving electricals on standby can have on our ever changing climate.

‘... consequently, Socrates decided to form his own rock group, the Socratic Four’

Christie Anderson
Features Editor

Wikipedia is a global phenomenon. Since its creation in 2001 it has become the seventh largest website in the world. It attracts around six million visitors a day. Free to use, it is truly the encyclopaedia by the people, for the people.

So why has it recently been branded a ‘monster’ in the press? What has led some universities to ban their students from using it for research?

The reason may be rooted in the very concept of Wikipedia – it really is written ‘by the people’, meaning anyone can contribute. And their contributions are instantly made public.

In the case of many Wikipedia articles this is not a problem. Enthusiasm for knowledge and expertise in their chosen field make many contributors perfect ‘Wikipedians’.

However, like anything that is almost entirely in the public domain, it is often misused by people who vandalise its pages, whether as a joke or with more malicious intentions.

Wikipedia hoaxes are now commonplace. Celebrities and politicians are usually in the firing line. Recently, Alan Titchmarsh was embarrassed when someone altered his page to re-

veal that he had published an updated version of the Kama Sutra. Also, Robbie Williams was said to make millions ‘eating domestic pets in pubs in and around Stoke’. David Beckham was once listed as ‘a Chinese goalkeeper in the 18th century’.

It is possible for such inaccuracies to go unchanged. Wikipedia has just 23 employees based in Silicon Valley. There are 75,000 approved volunteer editors who check its pages in their spare time. But it is often left up to readers to edit entries. In these cases there is no way of knowing whether the person ‘correcting’ the information is an expert, a saboteur or simply mistaken.

Occasionally there are bits of vandalism which are just too bizarre to be forgotten. As a tribute to these, Wikipedia employees have created ‘BJAODN’, the ‘bad jokes and other deleted nonsense’ page.

This page includes entries such as ‘Coca-Cola in the Wild’: ‘In its natural state, Coca-Cola is docile until attacked, when it will spray sweet liquid on the predator’. Apparently, it may ‘accidentally’ tip over near your feet in the cinema or disguise itself as the less popular Pepsi or Dr. Pepper brands.

Another article quickly deleted from the main site, but remembered on BJAODN presumably for the sheer

effort that had gone into creating it, was the ‘Upper Peninsula War’ entry. The article contained vast amounts of ‘information’ on the fictitious conflict between Michigan and Canada, as well as maps, pictures, even references and footnotes. It was only discovered to be false when Google returned no search results for it. As Wikipedia says: ‘If it is not on Google, it doesn’t exist’.

Until 2005 readers did not even need to be registered to edit articles. But when a saboteur linked an American journalist to the John F. Kennedy assassination this was changed.

More recently, U.S. senator Ted Kennedy was wrongly listed as having died after he collapsed at the inauguration of Barack Obama. This prompted a proposal called the ‘Flagged Revisions’ policy, which would stop first-time or anonymous users making instant additions because they would first have to be approved by trusted users.

However, this has led to accusations of censorship and a challenge to the very concept of Wikipedia as a public encyclopaedia.

Wikipedia was created by Jimmy Wales, a former research director at a trading firm in Chicago. He claims he is the sole founder, though he is widely considered to be the co-founder with American philosopher Larry Sander – funnily enough, both sides of this argu-

ment can be found in their respective Wikipedia entries.

Even Wales is not immune to the urge to tamper with Wikipedia articles. He was caught altering his own page, as well as that of his former company, Bomis. Allegedly, he was embarrassed by the company’s adult content; according to American magazine The Atlantic Monthly it is ‘the Playboy of the internet’.

Wales acknowledges that mistakes do occur. Obviously it should not be used as a single source, but Wales claims that Wikipedia can be used as a ‘stepping stone’ to other resources. Most students will agree and will have used it, at least to give them an overview of a topic before researching it further.

If it is used simply as a ‘stepping stone’ and any particularly strange looking information is double checked, it seems there is little problem as far as the academic pages are concerned. If the ‘Flagged Revisions’ policy is successful, incorrect entries could become a thing of the past.

Wikipedia is not all about pranks and celebrities; many of its articles are useful and informative. Perhaps refining who can submit and edit articles will make it a respected encyclopaedia, rather than a forum for petty arguments and celebrity rumours.

Wikipedia gags and blunders:

- Alan Titchmarsh was rumoured to have published an updated version of the Kama Sutra
- For a short while Tony Blair’s middle name was listed as ‘whoop-de-doo’
- The entire entry for Harry Potter was erased and replaced with a brutal plot spoiler: ‘Snape is the half-blood prince and kills Dumbledore’
- George Bush is said to have had his page vandalised 40,000 times
- The Sacha Baron Cohen creation, Borat, was once named as the president of Kazakhstan
- David Beckham was described as an 18th century Chinese goalkeeper

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Funny money...

Daniel Ash
Features Editor

'DO SOMETHING FUNNY for money' is the slogan for this year's Red Nose Day, that day which comes only once a year when celebrities band together to promote fun and laughter in the name of charity and good causes.

This year the day falls on 13th March (Friday of Week 9), meaning that the time is fast approaching if you're planning on waxing an indecent area of your body, or painting various parts of yourself red for sponsorship money. If you feel like helping to raise money, but would prefer to keep your dignity and bodily hair intact, then the Red Nose Day people have devised a myriad of ways for you to donate cash and have a laugh. Personally I find that the Red

Noses themselves constitute hours of fun, you can wear them, throw them, juggle them, and even attach one onto each index finger so as to re-enact favourite movie scenes. This year you can vote for your favourite celebrity undertaking a popular dance routine, if you haven't yet seen Robert Webb's version of 'What A Feeling' from Flashdance, then I highly recommend that you find it online. Other ways to add to the comic relief pot would be to sponsor the celebrities climbing Mt Kilimanjaro, buy the single released by The Saturdays (it is for a good cause), or the song by Gavin and Stacey stars Ruth Jones and Rob Brydon who are joined by Sir Tom Jones and Robin Gibb. Closer to home, money is being raised by Fylde women's darts team, who are making a 'Calendar Girls' inspired calendar of their own, copies of which will be on sale from the 8th March. There will also be

live stand-up taking place in Alexandra Square on the day, with a line-up of local students eager to amuse you into parting with your money. You should also keep an eye out for events in bars and JCR's with a comic-relief, money raising theme to them. Money raised through comic relief goes towards helping a long list of causes, which are aimed at helping people in both Africa and the UK. Within the UK the money from comic relief helps to fund charities dealing with issues such as domestic violence, mental health problems, refugees and asylum seekers, as well as helping both old and young people in society. In Africa the money that is raised goes into helping street children, people living in poverty, as well as those affected by



Comic Relief

HIV, wars and national emergencies. Whether you want to throw a party, or simply watch David Tennant (this year's guest host) and the show with a red nose on, you can be assured that all the money you give will go directly to a worthwhile cause. This guarantee is due to the fact that all the costs are cov-

ered by comic relief's sponsors. Information can be found on the Red Nose Day website for all the above ways of donating money, there are also lots of helpful ideas should you wish to organise a money raising event yourself.

... and fun on the fourth plinth

ON THE OFF chance that you've you ever wanted to pass the time by standing on top of the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square, you may now have the chance. Leading British artist Antony Gormley is inviting people from across the nation to take part in a "unique living monument." Calling his creation 'One & Other', it is intended to act as a showcase of the country we live in and the people who inhabit it.

The idea for 2400 people will have spent an hour each on top of the famous plinth between the July 6 and the October 14. A person is allowed to do whatever they like for their hour (sing, dance, raise their college flag) and can take with them anything that they can carry up there themselves. Anyone not perched above Trafalgar Square will be able to watch online (www.oneandother.co.uk), and you will even be able to vote for your favourite 'plinthers'. Anyone who lives in the UK and is over 16 is free to take part and successful applicants will be picked at random.

Gormley was commissioned to create this piece of temporary artwork by the Mayor of London's Fourth Plinth Commissioning Group. It is intended to be one piece in a series of unique live events being planned by creative producers Artichoke, who are working in partnership with Sky Arts. Artichoke have engineered similar large scale public art shows, most famously by bringing The Sultan's Elephant to



UK Web Media

London in 2006 and La Machine to Liverpool last year.

Gormley envisions the project as making "the body become a metaphor, a symbol," that when placed within the context of Trafalgar Square and the background of the Fourth Plinth will "allow us to reflect on the diversity, vulnerability and particularity of the individual in contemporary society." If you go onto the project's website you will find a video of Anthony Gormley explaining how this idea will express "the democratisation of art."

This plan is intended to help us to "see the world from the point of view of art," a view we have apparently "inherited from the old order," which he

hopes to replace with a new one. In a separate statement the artist summed up his creation by saying that "it could be tragic but it could also be funny."

He is no stranger to large displays of modern art which fly in the face of norms and conventions, being the designer of such landmarks as the Angel of the North and the metal men on Crosby Beach known as 'Another Place'. Gormley's works have been put on display in some of the world's most famous art museums and galleries, such as the Tate, the Hayward Galleries, the Louisiana Museum in Humlebaek and the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington DC. His artistic creations have earned him a string of awards and

accolades, including the Turner Prize, the South Bank Prize for Visual Art and the Bernhard Heiliger Award for Sculpture.

The Fourth Plinth itself has been the sight of many other important and influential works of large-scale art. The installation of art on top of the plinth began in 1999 when the Royal Society of Arts started the Fourth Plinth Project. This project was initially very successful, with work by Mark Wallinger, Bill Woodrow and Rachel Whiteread residing above Trafalgar Square up until 2001. Despite the plinth being empty for several years, it was decided that the use of the column as a site of artistic exhibition was

the best way to utilise the space, and once again the plinth was used for the purposes of contemporary art. In recent years the plinth has played host to sculptures such as Alison Lapper Pregnant by Marc Quinn and Thomas Schutte's Model for a Hotel.

The proposed plans have attracted a lot of positive attention from influential figureheads from the worlds of politics and art. Boris Johnson, London mayor, said: "It's going to be a brilliant case of people coming to art and art coming to the people as the people become the art. A very public demonstration of democracy in action." Moira Sinclair, who holds the role of Executive Director of the Arts Council of England, said that the project was "remarkable" in the way that it "values the multiplicity of voices within the UK." He went on to state that it will allow the people of the UK to "stand up and take their places amongst the luminaries of Trafalgar Square" whilst simultaneously stimulating the debate about "the role of art in everyday life."

Antony Gormley's works of art have captivated the nation's attention before in unique and interesting ways (whether you like the way the Angel of the North grabs your attention is up to you). If you would like to take part in his next masterpiece and cement your place alongside Nelson, George IV, James II and George Washington, then you can register online now for the chance.

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Michael & Sarah



A Woman whose work is never done and a Young Man who's never done work affectionately wrestle with the relationship issues of Lancaster University.

(Note: like that little hug that boxers do to each other when they are tired.)

Dear Michael and Sarah

I have been with my girlfriend for 3 months but last weekend she caught me 'enjoying' a pornographic video and went mental at me! I don't want to break up with her but **I won't give up my porn**, what can I do to reconcile the two?

X

SARAH: Have you tried talking to her - with the video switched off? All those naked bodies are dreadfully distracting when a girl wants to have a serious relationship chat.

You need to explain to your partner that porn is something you enjoy and, much like masturbation, it is a sexual desire or preference that does not quell once you have regular sex with a partner. Your joint and private sex lives should be able to merge when necessary and be kept solitary at the times when you wish it so. Women's most frequent complaint about porn is that it makes them feel insecure, or that they feel it degrades women. Now, depending upon the nature of your video, both of these may be true in your girlfriend's eyes, so try to explain that you prefer the physical her, but that you see no harm in watching porn.

Depending upon her reaction to this talk, ask her to watch with you and see if she still finds it uncomfortable. If she really can't be brought round to your video collection, keep it private and instead take her to Ann Summers to buy her erotic literature. She may just release and enjoy her repressed self through books rather than film.

Dear Michael and Sarah

One of my housemates has taken to singing the scores from various popular musicals at all hours. How can I discourage her talent and retain peace in the house without upsetting her? **I am so fed up with being woken by the songs from 'Mamma Mia' at 8a.m.** Help!

X

SARAH: Oh my. Singing housemates are a strange phenomenon and often they feel they are brightening your day with their incessant warbling. If this is not the case, and at 8a.m I fail to see how it could be, you need to be honest and tell them to limit their vocal talents to the shower and try to practice when they are home alone. If they do not respond well to this suggest that they join a choir or music society, as there they can thrive in the harmonious environ-

MICHAEL: The fact that you were using such outdated equipment leads me to believe you wanted to be caught. Who even owns a video-recorder anymore? Were you pleasuring yourself in the library's AV room for God's sake?

There are so many futuristic and stealthy ways to view pornography these days that you just weren't using your ingenuity; even the most low-tech of mobile phones these days can support a blurry pixilated image of a crotch.

I personally have no need for porn because my imagination is so well developed; whenever I want to get 'palm-frisky' I simply think of a random woman who I saw during the day who looked a bit upset or fretful, or something, and from there imagine a scenario in my head where her and I would ultimately consummate our unspoken love for each other... usually hastily... and in disabled toilets (because they are spacious and not because the woman is disabled, well not usually anyway)... God I wish this was a lie.

ment without fear of ridicule. Unless they are rubbish. Try to make clear to your housemate that exam period is approaching, and whilst it may make them feel at ease to flex their vocal chords and belt out 'The Winner Takes it All' in the early hours, both you are your housemates need quiet contemplation. In a last ditch attempt sing back loudly in a retaliatory manner and hope they are so affronted they stop.

Dear Michael and Sarah

Will boys like me more if I have my bikini line waxed? So many of my friends talk about waxing and plucking yet I have always let my lady garden grow naturally. I am now concerned that this is unattractive to men and whilst my friends say waxing is not that painful I am still reluctant to try it. **Should I try it or stick to my natural methods?**

X

SARAH: I think the hair debate is overrated; some boys like sex with girls, the particulars often fall by the wayside.

Unless your hair is becoming an obstruction I can't see that boys will mind. However, it depends upon what you feel comfortable with. Going from a full bush to a Brazilian might be a bit extreme so try to ease your way into it. Forget what boys prefer and instead think about your own comfort, hygiene and sexuality and decide what works best for you.

Perhaps try with some at home wax strips, but be prepared, it really does hurt and if you are committing to personal hygiene maintenance you will need to be realistic. Aim for a tidy up wax rather than stripping yourself bare, and also be aware that hair regrowth is uncomfortable. All that said you may find that not only do you find your lady garden more aesthetically pleasing, but that it heightens sensuality and pleasure.

MICHAEL: Pube politics are a very contentious issue as no-one in the world seems to be sure exactly what to do with them.

Letting them grow wild and untrammelled is obviously a quite satisfying option as you can fiddle around with them whenever you are bored, but though pleasing to the touch there is very much a gruffness about having genitals that resemble Hagrid.

Also, entirely shaven pubes have such a wretched porno inhumanity; there's something about the painful and deliberate process of removing all traces of hair that seems so fascistic. Sure, you may have wipe-clean android nether parts... but where's the love? I say opt for the middle ground and simply trim tastefully... a well kept lady garden is a thing of beauty.

If you have an issue you'd like to ask Michael & Sarah about, write to them at michael_unt_sarah@hotmail.co.uk.

Anonymity guaranteed.





MICHAEL: I can't say I blame you for being irritated hearing Mamma Mia songs at 8 o'clock in the morning; the film's mixture of butchered hen-night renditions of classic songs mixed with the sight of middle-aged women having a good-time makes me wish that I could have Julie Walters head on a pike. Having said that though you mention that your housemate is in fact quite talented at singing; but she must recognize that there are sanctioned zones in the house where singing is appropriate. I myself would lay my life down for a man's inalienable right to sing 'Little Shop of

Horrors' songs in the shower; but if she sings loudly and obnoxiously in the corridors near people who have only just arisen from their slumber then you are well within your rights to disintegrate her vocal chords with Domestos. I would recommend getting through to her in the only language it sounds like she understands by waking up ten minutes before her each morning standing over her bed and awakening her with a loud rendition of Kelly Osborne's awful song 'shut up'. She will soon get the message.

For **official** LUSU Advice, go to the LUSU Advice mini-site at **advice.lusu.co.uk** or pop into the Advice Centre (open 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday in the LUSU Building, underneath SPAR)



One World Week

Monday Diversity	Tuesday Conflict	Wednesday Justice	Thursday Green and Water	Friday Red Nose Day
<p>BBQ 12.30pm in the Chaplaincy Centre</p> <p>Garden Raft Launch 2pm procession from Chaplaincy Centre to Lake Carter, launching a floating garden raft</p> <p>Dance and poetry 7.30pm Creativity in the Chaplaincy Centre</p> 	<p>Boards of Peace With Incense and White Poppies being used to show commitment to non-conflict. Alexander Square, ongoing throughout the day</p> <p>UN based talk on Guantanamo Bay 12.30pm in the Chaplaincy Centre</p> <p>'Make some noise' about Ethical Investment Protest with instruments and megaphones. Alexander Square</p> <p>Film on living without using plastic Exact time tbc in the Chaplaincy Centre</p> 	<p>Workshop on People Trafficking 1pm Venue tbc</p> <p>Teach-in on the Democratic Republic of Congo 3pm Venue tbc</p> <p>Media Workshop on Rape as a Weapon of War 6pm in Furness Lecture Theatre 1. Opening into an open Debate on this topic</p> 	<p>Organic Garden Stall In the Square. Ongoing throughout the day.</p> <p>Organic Veg Market In the Square. Ongoing throughout the day.</p> <p>Lunch for Kickstart. in the Chaplaincy Centre</p> <p>Cycle tours to and from campus Leaving from the Square</p> <p>Water Activities Activities about Water and access to water also about Eden Springs Water company. Alexander Square, ongoing throughout the afternoon.</p> <p>Donnachadh McCarthy Talk About sustainable living. Awards and Presentation for eco-residences carbon Competition. Elizabeth Livingstone Lecture Theatre</p>	<p>Comedy Alex Square, ongoing throughout the day</p> <p>Sugarhouse</p> 

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then at 10	30	
30	50	
50	until	
until	1750	
1750		

Bus times from

University Underpass

M-F	Sat	Sun
0834	0833	1336
0903	0903	then at 36
0923	0923	until
0933	0933	until
then at 53	then at 53	2236
13	13	
33	33	
until	until	
1733	1733	
1753	1753	
1813	1813	

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A whole new meaning for ‘crispy duck’

ARE YOU BORED with Ready Salted? Do you crave something more adventurous than Salt and Vinegar? Does a builder’s breakfast in a bag tempt you? Or maybe the more exotic crispy duck and hoi sin or onion bhaji flavour sound more appealing.

These flavours, along with fish and chips, chilli and chocolate and Cajun Squirrel have been on sale

since January as part of Walkers’ ‘Do Us A Flavour’ campaign. Last July members of the public were able to nominate a flavour for the competition; the final six were chosen from more than one million entrants by a team including celebrity chef, Heston Blumenthal.

It is unsurprising that Blumenthal - famed for inventing dishes such as

bacon and egg ice cream and snail porridge - is part of the project to find a new and unique flavour.

The winning flavour will be decided by public vote. The flavour with the most votes by May 1 will remain on sale and the others will be discontinued.

So which will win? We put the flavours to the test:

Builder’s Breakfast:

Before tasting this flavour, the idea of a combination of bacon, buttered toast, eggs and tomato sauce seemed too overpowering for a flavour of crisp. The smell is similar to Walkers’ smoky bacon flavour and one criticism of the taste was that it is too much like this existing product. The taste of bacon and egg is immediately noticeable; however, you can definitely taste the other components. It is a success in that it does what it says on the tin, (or rather, packet) but it didn’t receive rave reviews. Most said there was nothing wrong with the taste but that they probably wouldn’t buy this flavour if given the choice.



Onion Bhaji:

Reactions were very positive for the onion bhaji flavour. Despite some reviewers not liking onion bhajis, it still managed to receive unanimously positive responses. One described the taste as “uber onion flavour crisps with a hint of curry” and most agreed that the flavour stayed fairly true to the ‘onion bhaji’ nametag. All in all a positive result, with many people saying that should the flavour stay on the shelves, they would buy the product again.



Chilli and Chocolate:

There were high hopes for this flavour. The classic combination of chilli and chocolate was interesting enough for people to want to try it while still available. However, it did receive rather negative reviews. Despite many people trying the crisp, the general consensus was that the “chocolate is wrong in the crisp” and even that it tasted a bit like “perfume”. Some compared the flavour to a less tasty prawn cocktail, but no one actually enjoyed the taste. While curiosity for this flavour may have bumped Walker’s sales, repeat custom looks unlikely.



Crispy Duck and Hoisin:

A favourite at Chinese restaurants everywhere, crispy duck and hoisin is perfectly replicated in this flavour of crisp. The flavour is not too overpowering, but very tasty. The taste of hoisin sauce strikes you from the first bite and the duck and pancake flavour are also very noticeable. Everyone who tried this flavour gave it a thumbs up. We also liked the picture on the packet of a duck made of crisps – a crispy duck. Get it?



Fish and Chips:

It sounds unconventional at first, but bear in mind precedents of fishy crisps have been set. Consider scampi fries, or those fish shaped things children eat. Unfortunately, this particular attempt by Walkers generally failed to impress. It was at one point likened to battered sausage and summed up as ‘like licking the top of a fish and chip shop counter’. My journalistic integrity may be at stake but I refuse to lick the counter of Hodgeson’s to see if there is a comparison. One advocate defended the flavour, but said that you really have to like vinegar and salt to appreciate the subtle nuances of its taste.



Cajun Squirrel:

This flavour raised a few eyebrows when I passed it round the group in a desperate bid not to be the first to taste one of them. However, oddly enough this flavour was liked by many. It could have been my lack of squirrel eating experience, but it did taste suspiciously like Cajun chicken. If you were to peruse the back of the packet you will find that it is vegetarian friendly, consisting of no meaty products at all. Overall, a packet of Cajun Squirrel flavour crisps offers you not just a snack but a proverb: never judge a crisp by its packet.



So there you have it. If you fancy something a bit different then try out one of these new flavours. For a tasty treat grab an onion bhaji or some crispy duck and hoisin. The brave and

adventurous may want to check out chilli and chocolate or Cajun squirrel. If you are still unsure about whether or not you want to try some, just think of all the money

Walkers have spent on this advertising campaign, you wouldn’t want Gary Lineker to be out of a job now would you?

ARTS

You read it here first..

Theatre Review:

The Perfect Gift

Lancaster University Theatre Group

Written by Tom Markham

by Christine Wilde

Many a playwright has had their work realised on stage by the enthusiastic students of the Lancaster University Theatre Group. William Shakespeare, Oscar Wilde and George Orwell among others, have been reproduced in Lancaster over the last few years for your viewing pleasure. But in Week 7 a new, not so widely known name joined their ranks as LUTG proudly presented their latest performance, *The Perfect Gift*, written by Lancaster student Tom Markham.

Filling the Brandrigg room in Cartmel, the sizable audience waited in intrigued anticipation for the show to begin. It was an interesting experience for most of the audience, who were used to seeing the Theatre Group's better known plays performed, to witness this entirely original, completely student-centric production.

Confidently constructed and well performed, *The Perfect Gift* focuses on two sisters, Molly and Samantha as they set sail for America with a precious box requested by their father. Unbeknownst to them, several other shady characters on board the ship, including gangsters, undercover agents, spies and assassins, are also after the box and its contents.

The play started well, introducing the multitude of characters in an efficient and humorous manner that swiftly established the unfamiliar story line. Although some of the jokes were obvious at times, the playful dialogue and strong performances of the more stereotyped roles, such as the gangsters and the undercover policemen, got a lot of laughs whilst enhancing the characterisation of the more original central protagonists, Molly and Samantha, whose natural sisterly banter provided much entertainment. The set design was also impressively versatile and, combined with the effective costumes, provided a clear sense of the 1930s pre-war setting of the play.

However, the end of the play suffered a little from having such a large cast for its scale, as some scenes looked overcrowded due to the number of people on the small stage, making it harder to locate the main focus of the action. Also, though most of the individual character narratives were resolved, the overall ending of the play was less cohesive than might have transpired had there been fewer strands to tie together.

Aside from that, the play was successful. Well acted and entertaining throughout, it was encouraging to see a student's creative work showcased in all its glory.

Theatre Preview:

Twelfth Night

Lancaster University Theatre Group

by Richie Garton
Arts Editor

ON THE 13TH and 14th of March LUTG will be performing *Twelfth Night*, another of Shakespeare's most adored comedies (it seems like the Theatre Group needed cheering up after last term's tragic *Othello*). I sat in on one of the rehearsals for this show, to see how this fun, festive play was turning out.

Observing a scene where the drunken Sir Andrew and Sir Toby cause havoc and are apprehended by the stuffy Malvolio, I was impressed by the chemistry and natural theatrical instinct of the actors. The scene seemed totally natural, and parts of it had me in stitches. This well-known play has a lot expected of it, and the actors seem to be living up to these expectations with weeks to go. I chatted to some of the cast members in between scenes to find out more about this production.

The cast all seem to have bonded really well, and it includes several new faces as well as LUTG veterans. I spoke to Dan Darragh, a first-year playing Orsino, a pretty weighty role. He had apparently not acted much before, but seemed to slip into the part with ease. He said he had really enjoyed being in *Twelfth Night* so far, although rehearsals tended to get in the way of sporting activities.

I learned that the play was being transported to the 'romantic period', giving it a Jane Austen feel, which struck me as a brave choice considering how much easier it is to 'modernise' Shakespeare these days. Hopefully, this setting should give the show a distinctive feel. Iain Black, who plays Sir Toby Belch (having previously played Sir Andrew Aguecheek in 2007's *Twelfth Night*), said that the show was 'a step forward' from the last production. This looks to be a hilarious, lighthearted production.



Theatre Preview:

Much Ado About Nothing

Lancaster University Theatre Group

by Christine Wilde

'YOU'RE LUCKY WE'RE not in the room that smells of feet today,' a Theatre Group member commented as we walked to a tiny class room in Faraday, where the rehearsals for this term's *Much Ado About Nothing*, were to take place. Lively and energetic, the cast seemed excited at the prospect of performing and were keen to fulfil a high

standard even in practise.

Whilst the cast warmed up, I spoke to director Ryan Sullivan to gauge what to expect from his version of *Much Ado*. Having been to see the play performed several times, Ryan has shaped and sharpened a clear vision of what he wants to create. Hating the idea of modernising the Shakespearean language, Ryan has opted to stick as far as possible to the original dialogue. However, he hasn't been shy about making changes to other aspects of the

play. Reducing the cast list right down to eight main roles, Ryan has concentrated on exploring all the protagonists and their motivations in more depth, particularly the character of Hero, who is often seen as passive and undeveloped making her harder to relate to. Both Ryan and the actress fulfilling her role (Charlie Hanson) hope to change this, making her feistier and more engaging so that she is not seen perpetually as a victim.

Scheduled to perform at the Duke's Youth Theatre on the 6th and 7th March and then taking it all the way to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival afterwards, the cast seem fully committed to this project and it looks set to be a great evening's entertainment.



'I have woo'd in thy name':

The reduced cast means that roles can be explored in greater depth. (Photo: Richie Garton)



Yawn: Stars Clive Owen and Naomi Watts deliver drab, uninspiring performances.

(Copyright: 2009 Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc.)

An international disappointment

Film Review:

The International

Directed by Tom Tykwer

Starring Clive Owen, Naomi Watts

by Hannah Fearon

WITH BRITAIN'S CURRENT financial situation constantly in the media, a film in which the antagonist is an international bank sounds interesting. German Director Tom Tykwer (knows for his 1998 film *Run, Lola, Run*) gives the audience a villain that we love to hate. I wasn't quite sure of what to expect when going to see this film, but I certainly wasn't prepared for the two hours of utter rubbish that is, *The International*.

Clive Owen stars as Interpol agent Louis Salinger in this espionage thriller. Salinger is trying to bring one of the most powerful banks in the world to justice, the International Bank of Business and Credit (IBBC) with the help of Manhattan Assistant District Attorney Eleanor Whitman (Watts). As the pair discovers illegal activities such as murder, arms trading and money laundering, they travel across the globe in a game of cat and mouse with the men

behind IBBC.

There's not really anything else to *The International* other than Salinger and Whitman travelling between Berlin, Milan and New York. The plot is straightforward and simple enough, but nothing actually happens in the film other than a few unconvincing death scenes. I was expecting a climatic political thriller packed with some great plot twists, but I was incredibly disappointed. Salinger seems to have a personal vendetta against IBBC but we never learn why, nor do we learn anything at all about any of the characters in the film. Clive Owen is even more moody and brooding than usual, never seen without a frown on that ever depressing face of his. Naomi Watts is no better, with a rather bad attempt at an American accent that actually made it painful to hear her speak. We learn nothing of relationships between the characters, who fail to accomplish anything within the film other than leaving the audience pretty unsatisfied. The poor characterisation, script and plot resulted in *The International* being

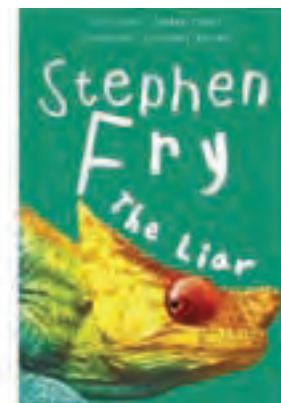
one of the duller films that I have seen in a very long time.

Only one scene in the film actually mildly interested me, which was a shoot-out in New York's Guggenheim Museum. The circular shape of the interior allowed for some excellent shots of the dramatic scene but I felt that this was ruined by the sound editor's apparent attempt to burst our eardrums with the highly exaggerated gunshots. Some of the locations in the film do give us some stunning visuals, which include a chase sequence on rooftops in Istanbul. However, there aren't enough of these scenes to make it anything special.

The International is definitely not anything special, but neither is it something even worth giving a watch on a rainy day. I wouldn't recommend that anyone sit through this disappointing offering from one hit wonder, Tom Tykwer.



Fry-up



The Liar

by Stephen Fry



by Richie Garton
Arts Editor

STEPHEN FRY HAS lately become a British institution. He is beloved by most of the British public (particularly the student population), and his twitter-stream is the most followed in the world after Barack Obama's. He fully deserves this adoration; the man is witty, charming, eccentric and frighteningly intelligent. He is also something of a modern-day polymath as well as cultural icon, being involved in everything from stage plays to quiz shows. A lot of people might not realise, however, that he is also an accomplished novelist. *The Liar* (first published in 1991) is the first of Fry's four novels, and in reading it I hoped to find out if he is as good at writing as he is at...well, everything else!

The Liar is the story of the 'poisonous little shit' Adrian Healey, a boy who lives his life as a string of lies and frauds. Set in the seventies, the novel follows Adrian from public school to Cambridge, and the book details the range of events, both comic and tragic, that occur to Adrian during this period.

The first thing that struck me about the book is how transparently autobiographical it is. Fry has clearly based Adrian on himself; from his confused sexuality to his distinctive way of speaking, everything about Adrian screams 'Fry' and it is hard not to picture him as you read the book. Happenings such as Adrian's expulsion from school also echo Fry's own life.

This is not necessarily a bad thing, as it gives the novel a sense of warming familiarity and carries across Fry's endless wit and ability to toy with language. The writing flows comfortably and the fast pace means that the reader is never bored. In places, it is laugh-out-loud funny, in others deeply thought-provoking. Also, despite Adrian's dishonest nature, he is written in a way that makes him impossible to dislike. My only concern about this novel is that by focusing in the elitist institutions of boarding-schools and Cambridge, some readers will find themselves alienated or drowned by the deluge of references to classical literature. If you can get past this, though, *The Liar* should be a book that you thoroughly enjoy.

Eternally Spotless

DVD Review:

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

Director: Michael Gondry

Starring: Kate Winslet, Jim Carrey

by Lizzie O'Brien
Arts Editor

As Kate Winslet has finally won an Oscar (for her role in *The Reader*), it seems fitting to review one of her best films to date. It isn't often that I see a film which genuinely knocks my socks off, but the first time I sat down to watch *Eternal Sunshine* I had a tub of Ben and Jerry's in my left hand, and by the end of the film I had barely touched it. *Eternal Sunshine* is a trippy, provocative, chronology-defying voyage into the mind of our male protagonist, Joel, as he undergoes a new scientific treatment which will erase ex-girlfriend Clementine from his mind once and for all.

We begin in the present and gradually move backwards in time, following Joel through the process of Clem-extermination, as his memories of her are eliminated, one by one. It is as much an examination of the randomness of the

mind, as well as the complicated nature of human relationships. It is disturbing and intimate, surreal and yet somehow rooted in the everyday. I became completely engrossed with, and addicted to their turbulent, bohemian life.

The cinematography creates a sense of the eerie, other-worldly nature of memory. There is a scene where Clem and Joel are hiding under her duvet talking intimately with each other, when Clem is wrenched away from him so suddenly. Joel crawls further and further under the covers, desperately trying to follow her, to hold on to that one memory, to try and stop it from being deleted. The endless, looping, nonsensical nature of his memory, the sheer inevitable fact of Clem's erasure is both frustrating and heart-warming.

Winslet dazzles as the tempestuous, impulsive heroine of a hundred hair colours, and Carrey is almost shockingly good as the creative yet sarcastic Joel. It is a part I never would have expected Carrey to play, let alone pull off



Scattered: The filming of *Eternal Sunshine* is unusual, but touching nonetheless. (Copyright Focus Features)

with any degree of success or authority. Both are powerful performances which carry the viewer through the bewildering labyrinth of Joel's mind. Their world is confusing, empty and irrational as well as full of imaginative possibility for a life that is somehow different or meaningful.

Eternal Sunshine is a thought-provoking and moving film. It avoids the crass sentimentality of the typical romance, and for this reason I think it

would be a mistake to pin it down to this genre. Every time I watch it I seem to come away with something new, and anyone who hasn't seen it should definitely think about doing so. Just a word to the wise, however: it's not the best film to watch for easy-viewing, so make sure your brain is in the mood for some serious thinking!



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Trigger happy

Game Review: *Chrono Trigger* Nintendo DS

by **Richie Garton**
Arts Editor

CHRONO TRIGGER IS an RPG made by Square-Enix, the people responsible for the much-loved *Final Fantasy* series. The similarities between this game and the formulaic *Final Fantasy* games are hard to ignore; you control a group of characters who travel the land, fighting monsters, using magic and levelling up as part of a fairly linear storyline. The combat is turn-based, and weapons and items work in largely the same way. But *Chrono Trigger* also does several things differently, which set it apart from Square's flagship franchise in an altogether pleasant and refreshing way.

First of all, *Chrono Trigger* is a time-travel game. It begins when the silent hero Crono and his friends accidentally create a time portal and are hurled back to the middle ages. After some experimentation, they become

able to travel to various time periods such as the future, pre-history and even the end of time. This means that rather than having a single world map, the game has several, representing different stages in time. You are given a lot of freedom with the time-travel, making it an exciting and fun gameplay element.

Something that seems to bother a lot of people about *Final Fantasy* is the random battles. In *Chrono Trigger* these are completely done away with, and transition from map to battle is pretty seamless. Gone are the days when you would wander desperately in a dungeon looking for an exotic item, only to be warped to the battle screen every 10 seconds. The placing of monsters is pre-determined, some can be avoided, others not. This makes the game much less stressful and tedious to play. The combat is another great thing about *Chrono Trigger*; the characters all have their own useful, unique skills, but these can be combined in the heat

of battle to create powerful and visually impressive 'dual techs'. This adds a great deal of strategy to boss fights.

The storyline, while not quite as deep or epic as some of the *Final Fantasies*, is still very strong and features some seriously unexpected twists. What is most impressive, though, is

the way you can tinker with the story—seemingly insignificant actions (such as eating another man's lunch) can become important later (when it is used as character evidence against you in a trial). The game was first released in 1995, but never in Europe until now; this aspect of the game makes you real-

ise how unimaginative Japanese RPGs can be these days.

Chrono Trigger is everything an RPG should be; challenging, engrossing, inventive and generally fun to play. What's more, it's packed with humour, cute graphics and a fantastic soundtrack. A must-buy for the RPG lover.



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albums

88 Keys *The Death of Adam*

by Meer Shah

YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT a debut LP from a producer that might have been around a while – and worked with some top names – to be too 'out there', but 88 Keys seems hell bent on making a name for himself; his soul/hip hop mix of an album is based entirely on the sex life of men.

When I first heard of the concept, I was sceptical (who wouldn't be?), but remarkably, *Death* sort of succeeds. The themes range from romance to lust to STIs to unplanned pregnancy and are covered with an off-beat, sometimes self-mocking, but conscience manner. Plus, there's a comment at the end of each song from a woman who emphasises with the protagonist, which adds to the objectivity, as well as of course maintaining some cohesion.

The singing and rapping are left, for the most part, to the guests, which is a wise move because sometimes – particularly in the middle of the album – the topics can be tiresome, so decent vocals, such as Redman on

(Decon)

Burning Bush, or Bilal on the terrific (and brilliantly titled) M.I.L.F do help retain the listener's interest.

The most striking – and best – part of this album, though, is undoubtedly the production. 88 Keys has clearly studied his influences well and every single track feels complete, and at times his ambition pays off with outstanding sound, such as lush melodies (*Dirty Peaches*), jazzy soul (*Ho' Is Short For Honey*)...and my personal favourite, the hilarious repeated scratching of "Bitch!" in *Nice Guys Finish Last* when the girl says she sees her suitor as "like a brother"; hey, we've all been there, right fellas?

Sometimes *The Death Of Adam* overreaches and can be cringe worthy, but on the whole is witty, diligent and the music is beautifully layered. If nothing else, it will easily stand as one of the most memorable records of the year.

Similar Artists: Kanye West, RZA, Prince Paul



The Wow Signal *Infinity's Lobby*

by Clay Garland

THE WOW SIGNAL are visceral alternative rock band. They're formed up of a group of intensely focused, excellent musicians with backgrounds in classical music and famous relatives. They were named after an unexplained alien communication picked up on radio telescopes in the 70's. Or so says the obscenely pompous press release that came with this album.

I ought to review the band, instead of their promotional material, but bands like this are a reviewers nightmare; there's nothing noteworthy bad to say about them, but they're so pretentious I really want to find an excuse to slag them off. It's psychedelic indie rock in the mold of a thousand other bands that did it fifteen years ago. The guitars are sweeping, the rhythm

(Wow Records)
March 23 release

is driving, the vocals aren't very good and the lyrics are dreadful. And so it goes on, with eleven songs that can't really decide who they want to sound like. Remember those compilations you used to get with magazines that chronicled 15 bands that sound the same as each other and would all be forgotten in a month? This is like that, but with four fewer tracks.

To add insult, nothing in the production or songwriting is remotely inspired or modern. It's not that they sound a bit too much like the bands of the early nineties - it's that they could actually have been one of them. So if for some reason that's the only sort of music you can listen to, then go for it, but otherwise I'd recommend some bands that actually achieved something interesting.



P.O.S. *Never Better*

by Meer Shah

As a general rule, I don't like rap-rock. It's gimmicky (Beastie Boys), so easy to get wrong (Limp Bizkit) and only rarely done well (Public Enemy). But underground indie rapper P.O.S is the exception to that rule. After a couple of albums to set the tone for his music, he's hit it bang on with *Never Better*; it seems third time really is a charm.

An accomplished musician and talented MC, P.O.S pulls out all the stops on a record that could well dictate the way hip hop moves over the next few years. The production is, as always, never spare; the instrumentals are always full, with a tight cohesion between songs. The man clearly likes his drums, as percussion is apparently the basis for most of the melodies. Listen to *Perplexed*, which is a flurry of metal, layered with a drum roll that could be a solo during band member introductions at a gig. P.O.S can also be gentler and more melodic; witness *Let It Rattle*, the album opener. The assurances that this is still hip hop are made clear with the throw-

(Reprise)

back scratching on Savion Glover.

The rhyming is brilliant too. P.O.S has a nasal delivery that recalls a certain Slim Shady, but P.O.S is unique as an MC. His flow is terrific and he is a true poet, with clever wordplay and focus on real issues (the credit crunch and the US election amongst others) that make the man stand alongside the likes of Black Thought as a shining hope to socially conscious (read: 'real') hip hop.

Never Better is remarkably consistent too. There isn't a notable weak spot in the entire thing, and ends with a 12 minute mindblower (*The Brave And The Snake*) that shows a juxtaposition of hard rock and mel-lower sound in each half.

Basically, one of the best albums I've heard – in any genre – for a long, long time. It's only a matter of time before mainstream success for this MC. Simply incredible.

Similar Artists: Brother Ali, Esoteric, Linkin Park, Eminem



live

Sunday school, punk style



'Circle of Death': The crowd obey Anti-Flag's orders to create a mosh pit. (Photo: Sam Fresco)

Anti-Flag / Flobots at Liverpool Carling Academy

Sam Fresco

FLOBOTS ARE GYM Class Heroes with distortion; but damn do they put on a good show.

Unfortunately only on for a handful of songs, however they were the best support band I've seen in a long time. With the lead singer body popping across the stage, a very attractive young female violinist slamming out solos and the entire band whipping the crowd into a frenzy with the catchy rhythm to the chant "Fight with, fight with, fight with TOOLS!" A strange choice of band to accompany Rise Against, but weirdly understood due to the link in 'moral messages through music'. Playing a selection of tunes from their debut album, they ended on the massive track *Handlebars*; the rapping just as sharp and crisp as the recording, the violin even better and the onstage break-dancing topping it all off. Overall, an awesome band that deserves more time in the spotlight and a crowd that would appreciate them more for their music rather than their message.

Anti-Flag came on soon after with crazy hair and more energy than an over-active rabbit on LSD. They created a circle of death. They asked for people to 'mosh'. They asked to stop police brutality. Annoyingly American, annoyingly over moral and simply a repetitive poor excuse for punk music – I was not a fan. An entire song went "Fuck Police, fuck police, fuck police...brutality." That was lame. They then asked Liverpool to do something better than anyone has ever done before, the best dance ever with the best crowd ever. The usual

crap bands say. This involved making a massive circle in the centre of the crowd and run round really fast. Apparently they assumed the audience had an average age of eight. Despite this, a handful of Mohican headed adolescents seemed to enjoy the running in a circle. Over the top of this, the blond/black haired lead singer was screaming "if your friend falls down...We. Pick. Him. Up." Insightful. Then a load of chat about race. Stop racism. Stop sexism. Stop every other -ism, everyone should live in peace and harmony, love thy neighbour and all that jazz, I wasn't there for the Sunday school lecture.

Being a sucker for famous people, we still decided to shake their hands afterwards anyway. They seemed enough nice guys, they weren't very popular for signatures – so there was no queue, at all. Got a picture, said hi, pretended to enjoy the show, they obviously thought they were special but they really weren't. "Whaddya think of the show dude?" I responded politely – "yeah...good." However, a friend who went to the same gig in Mances on Friday quite enjoyed them, if that's what you're into and you get involved in the crowd apparently they are good fun. So, my view may be bias, take it with a pinch of salt. Either way, Rise Against showed truly showed them up, they were certainly the headliners for a reason.

Flobots

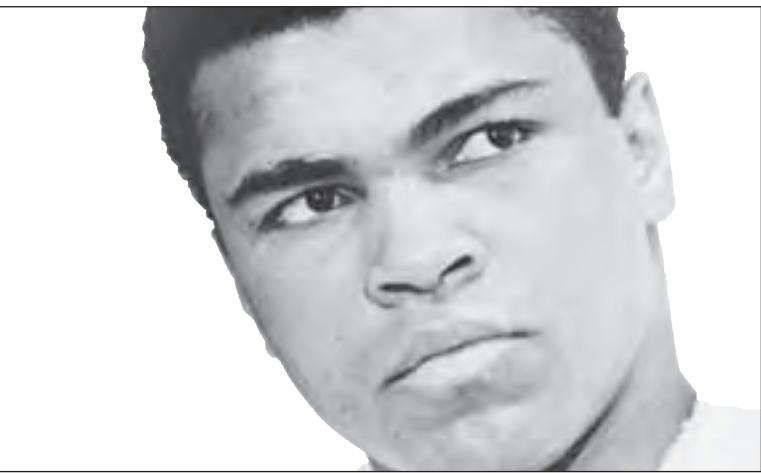


Anti-Flag



SPORTS

Why not make Muhammad Ali Sports Personality of the Year?



Gareth Coleman
AU President

EVERY YEAR, THE BBC hold their prestigious Award Ceremony, awarding who they (and the public) deem worthy of the various titles and awards for individuals and teams, athletes and coaches etc. The most recent recipient of Sports Personality of the Year (the most prestigious award) being a certain Sir Chris 'Beijing' Hoy – and most deservedly so.

I think the concept is brilliant, and the whole evening is a spectacle, as the audience re-lives the reasons why the nominations are our country's favourite sporting sons and daughters for that particular year. Some people may think that several of the nominations are not worthy of any accolades, or that they have received too many in a given year, or that they are grossly overpaid 'stars' who are simply 'flavour of the month' because they happen to head-up a successful marketing campaign for some sort of new gadget or aftershave. But Sir Chris Hoy was undoubtedly the favourite to scoop the award last year due to his 3-gold-medal-haul in the Summer – and it is my opinion that in an Olympic year, the selection panel really shouldn't be looking beyond the Games themselves for a worthy winner.

However, one comment which was made to me around when discussing the awards was "It's not really Sports Personality is it?", and I guess what was meant was that the grandeur title of 'Sporting Personality' is more akin to 'Most Successful Sportsmen' rather than 'personality'. This inevitably made me think of the genuine 'personalities' within sport, and the obvious – Muhammad Ali – came to mind. Not only was he a gold medal-winning Olympian, and an incredibly talented athlete, but he was a genuine 'star', whose personality perhaps made him more popular than his talent would have done alone. He gave himself the nicknames 'The Greatest' and 'The Champ', wrapped the press around his

little finger and is arguably the most well-known sportsman who ever lived.

Beyond Ali however, who else can claim that mantle? I'm sure everyone can think of at least a handful of names for themselves. Ali himself divided people with his pre-fight trash-talking, and those truly 'big personalities' of sport today still do the same. At the time of writing this, Manchester United have drawn Inter Milan in the UEFA Champions League knock-out round, which has been dubbed "Fergie vs. Mourinho". This shows the gravitas of these individuals, as the Media has turned the match from a fixture into a personal duel between the two managers. These two managers have had countless column inches written about them for differing reasons, but they do highlight my point. Love him or hate him, Sir Alex Ferguson has earned his spurs via success, winning more trophies as a manager in English Football than anyone before him, whilst Mourinho (compared to Ferguson) is a very young manager, but has equally made an incredible impact wherever he has worked – not only due to his abilities as a manager (and a certain Roman Abramovich's cheque-book), but due to his personality and manner. In his very first press conference as Chelsea manager, he said "Please don't call me arrogant, but I'm European Champion and I think I'm a special one" – which of course then gave Mourinho his nickname – "The Special One".

Do you see any comparisons? I am in no way suggesting that Mourinho is in Ali's league, but they are similar, the brash/cocky personalities have made them endearing and consequently instantly recognisable around the globe.

Stars of this nature undoubtedly have defining moments in their sporting careers, and bringing the discussion down to Lancaster's relevance, I was recalling the defining sporting moments from the year so far, and even from Roses from the past few years. There will be heroes and villains come May when we travel to York, and no doubt certain individuals will make a name for themselves by slotting over that last minute conversion or by saving a penalty in the dying seconds. I'm not saying these people can call themselves 'The Greatest', but that moment, that action will define their sporting year, possibly their club's sporting year, and maybe, just maybe, even Lancaster's sporting year.

I'm just keeping my fingers crossed that all the heroes will be on our side.

LURC's Alex Lap raises £800 for charity



Dan Southall

MORE THAN FIFTY keen fundraisers braved the ever-changing weather on Sunday 1st March to take part in the 2nd annual Alexandra's Lap. Despite the alternating sun and rain, the event was a great success, and managed to attract more than fifty runners. A wealth of ability groups took part, ranging from the competitive runners to beginners, sports teams to fancy dress. Some ran, some walked, some hobbled, and some even did it in flip-flops!

The charity fun run, organised by Lancaster University Running Club, proved to be even more successful than the 2008 event. Keen fundraisers helped to raise an estimated £800 for

MacMillan Cancer Research – a massive leap from last year's total – which will be donated to help fund support for sufferers and research into cancer treatment.

The mile-long route consisted of one lap of Alexandra Park perimeter road and the length of Graduate Drive, with the finishing line just outside Lonsdale bar. Thanks to the kindness of staff at Lonsdale bar, sign-ups and organisation on the day was a great success, and provided welcome shelter from the drizzle.

Sponsorship and support was kindly provided by John Sanderson and the staff at Cable Street Student Housing, who provided the prizes and have offered to double any final totals raised. Support was also provided by LUSU, who helped with organisation of the event, and university security

staff, who helped marshal the road and keep the event as incident-free as possible.

Wes Possible, Finance and Admin officer for LURC, commented, 'This is the second year I have been involved in organising Alex Lap, and I can honestly say it's been a fantastic experience. Everyone involved has shown real commitment in organising the event, coming along and running and helping to raise money for a worthwhile cause.'

Congratulations to all who took part on the day. Richard Jamieson took 1st prize for males, with a time of 5m 15s. Close behind was Jack Griffiths, with a time of 5m 22s. Fiona Ferguson took 1st place for females, coming in at 6m 06s, with Andora Perkins coming 2nd with a time of 6m 39s.

Darts team win national championship for second time

Jen Smith stepped confidently to the oche and banged out a superb 17 dart leg – the best leg of the day. Lancaster went wild as they began to believe that we really could do this. Walker and Williams vowed to pour their pints over their heads if Jen Smith. However, York were not giving up that easily and they drew a leg back, taking it to an ultimate deciding leg. Even the most experienced of male players might feel

the tension in such a situation as this, but not Jen Smith who kept a steady hand to pull out another incredible leg, finishing of the York team with a 24 dart leg. Lancaster went absolutely wild with celebrations, with drinks going everywhere, tears from Miss Smith, and the usual Lancaster University darts chants.

Lancaster are no doubt a better team than York but disappointing performances from some of the usu-

ally strong players such as McLelland meant that York had a real chance of stealing Lancaster's crown. Thankfully, Lancaster did just enough to secure their title for the second consecutive year – but the story of the day was no doubt the performance of Jen Smith – the best performance of the day proving the darts is not just a man's sport. Bring on Roses.

LUWFC's attacking prowess proves vital difference against Liverpool

• 4-0 victory puts Lancaster within reach of league top-spot

by Robert Payling

AFTER A DISAPPOINTING exit from the BUCS Cup Semi-Final against Cumbria last week, Lancaster responded well in this victory over Liverpool in the league. A run of three consecutive wins was broken by the Cup fixture so Lancaster were determined to return to winning ways.

The home side found themselves ahead just three minutes into the game thanks to a long range effort by Emma Leahy. After receiving a well weighted pass twenty yards from goal, Leahy took a quick touch before strik-

ing the ball hard in to the top left hand corner. Intent on adding to the lead Lancaster's Georgia Philipson retrieved the ball in defence before embarking on a marauding run down the left wing and hitting a powerful strike on goal that could only be punched away by the Liverpool goalkeeper. A rare defensive mistake gifted Liverpool with their only clear chance to equalise midway through the half but goalkeeper Jess Smith dealt confidently with the well struck effort.

Lancaster were rewarded for their endeavours at the end of the half when the ball was rolled across the edge of the eighteen yard box for Sarah Williamson to

hit first time and send a spectacular curling effort beyond the reach of the Liverpool goalkeeper.

An early surge of attacking moves in the second period looked like the signs of a team threatening to run riot. Phillipson dominated every challenge she engaged in and transformed the complexion of the game by turning defence in to attack in devastating fashion on countless occasions. Jess Sippets and Jenny Murphy controlled play with great competence in midfield and were instrumental in Lancaster's flowing style of play. It was somewhat ironic then that Lancaster's next goal would not come through open play but from a corner kick. A great delivery from the set piece fell perfectly for Leahy to make an intelligent run to the back post and head in for her second.

Sue Wynes almost added a fourth on two occasions in the second half for Lancaster. The first, after a darting run down the right wing clipped the cross bar and bounced away for a goal kick. The second came after a Liverpool defender misjudged a lobbed pass forward allowing Wynes to run on to the ball in space and force a reaction save from the goalkeeper. Lancaster's fourth goal came unceremoniously from a deflection off one of the Liverpool players, bouncing into the goal.

Liverpool came close to a consolation goal late on by hitting the crossbar but failed to capitalise with the rebound which was hit wildly off target. This was a thoroughly deserved result for Lancaster and reduces the gap to Manchester Met in 1st place to four points.

Fencing team on course for league victory

by Simon Johnston

Lancaster men's fencing team have secured victory in the Northern Conference 2A league with a 134-116 victory over Liverpool men's 1st, maintaining a 100% win record this season.

Travelling to Liverpool off the back of victory in the semi-final of the Northern Conference Cup, the team knew that a win over their nearest rivals would take them to an unassailable position at the top of the table and secure promotion to the 1A league.

The match began with sabre, and Lancaster stormed into an early eight point lead, with Shad

Hopson and Richard Moxon both winning their first bouts. Chris Dain suffered a close 5-3 defeat to Liverpool captain Chris Wright, but won his second 5-1. This left the score at 20-12 to Lancaster after four of the nine bouts for the weapon. However, a dramatic comeback from Liverpool, including an impressive 13-4 victory to Wright, saw the scores very close at 35-32 with just two bouts remaining. Dain and Hopson both won their last bouts to claim victory in the weapon by 45 points to 34.

Moving on to the foil, Liverpool got off to a roaring start, gaining a 25-12 lead after five bouts. Defeat in the weapon seemed certain for Lancaster, but after an stunning

18-1 victory to German Seb Wysk over Dan Hepner, Lancaster suddenly found themselves leading 30-26. After both Moxon and Lancaster captain Aaron Gardner had seen their bouts run for the full three minutes, it was again time for Wysk to show off his skills, claiming victory 8-2 and securing the weapon 45-39.

At the start of the ÉpÉE the score stood at 90-73, meaning that Lancaster needed to accrue only 29 of the 45 available points to win the match. The final weapon began with a repeat of the final foil bout, Wysk versus Adam Swift. This time, iSwiftyi had his revenge, defeating the German 5-1. Once again, Liverpool had a rampant start, winning all but

one of the first five bouts, taking a 25-17 lead. Two 5-5 draws followed, bringing the score to 35-27 and leaving Lancaster needing just two points to win the match. Wysk was next on piste and won the fight 10-5 to take the team over the winning line. Gardner then finished off the match with a 7-3 victory, giving Lancaster a close 44-43 victory in the ÉpÉE and an overall victory of 134-116.

This leaves Lancaster 9 points clear at the top of the table, untouchable by closest rivals Liverpool, who only have 6 available points. With two matches remaining, one being the cup final, can Lancaster complete a remarkable undefeated season?

Football B-Active leagues still up for grabs

by Oliver Holmes
Sports Editor

The B-active football league draws to a close soon with winners of both leagues still to be decided. Group one sees History lead the way following two wins and a draw in their three games. However, the title could be snatched away from them if County C's manage to win by a two goal deficit against bottom of the league Core FC who are yet to register a point in the competition.

Despite an opening 2-0 win for Bailrigg in the first game of the campaign, they failed to build momentum and suffered heavy defeats against County C's and History FC. The 0-0 draw played out between History FC and County C's could prove crucial as to which way the league is decided once all of the games have been played.

The B league is still there for the

taking after a disrupted season that currently sees Bouchcroft FC and Fylde C's sit joint top. Bouchcroft flew out of the traps at the start of the season scoring eleven goals in their first two games. However, a 1-1 draw against Cartmel C's and a 3-2 defeat at the hands of Red Star Cartmel has seen there title hopes suffer. Fylde have the chance to overtake Bouchcroft with their game in hand and would feel it is their league to lose if they manage to take advantage of the situation. However, both Cartmel sides and Bowland FC still maintain a glimmer of hope if results go their way until the end of the season in what will prove a dramatic finale to the campaign.

Cartmel C's and Fylde C's remain the only unbeaten teams in the league, although it will be Cartmel's failure to turn draws into victories that could prove pivotal to their final standing.

B-Active Football League Group 1

	Pld	W	L	D	Diff	Pts
History FC	3	2	0	1	4	7
County C's	2	1	0	1	3	4
Bailrigg FC	3	1	2	0	-4	3
The Core FC	2	0	2	0	-3	0

B-Active Football League Group 2

	Pld	W	L	D	Diff	Pts
Bouchcroft FC	4	2	1	1	5	7
Fylde C's	3	2	0	1	5	7
Red Star Cartmel	4	2	2	0	-6	6
Cartmel C's	3	0	0	3	0	3
Bowland FC	3	1	2	0	-1	3
Gradbar Rangers	3	0	2	1	-3	1

Inter-College leagues

IC Football League A

	Pld	W	L	D	Diff	Pts
Pendle	5	4	0	1	17	13
Fylde	5	4	1	0	13	12
Furness	5	3	1	1	4	10
County	5	2	2	1	6	7
Grizedale	4	1	1	2	1	5
Bowland	5	1	4	0	-12	3
Lonsdale	5	0	2	2	-8	2
Cartmel	5	0	4	1	-21	1

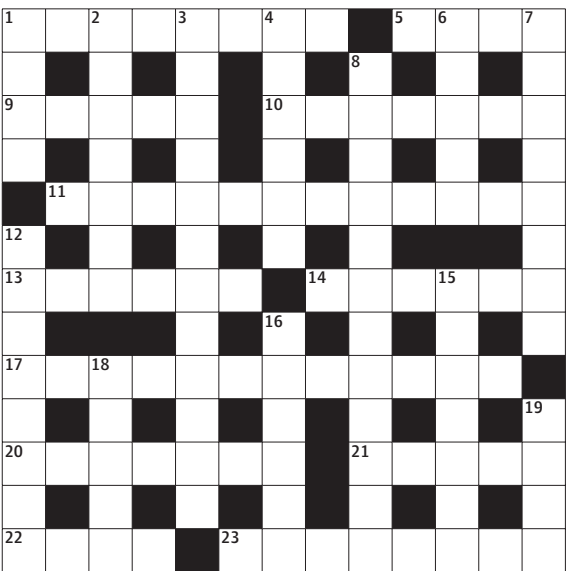
IC Football League B

	Pld	W	L	D	Diff	Pts
Fylde	7	6	0	1	23	19
Graduate	5	4	0	1	17	13
Lonsdale	6	4	2	0	3	12
Cartmel	6	3	2	1	-1	10
County	5	2	3	0	0	6
Pendle	6	2	4	0	-11	6
Bowland	6	1	4	1	-8	4
Furness	4	1	3	0	-5	3
Grizedale	7	1	6	0	-18	3

IC Netball League

	Pld	W	L	D	Diff	Pts
Fylde	11	11	0	0	162	33
Bowland	13	10	3	0	140	30
County	11	8	3	0	61	24
Grizedale	11	6	5	0	52	18
Furness	11	5	6	0	-50	15
Lonsdale	12	5	7	0	-59	15
Cartmel	13	1	12	0	-113	3
Pendle	12	1	11	0	-193	3

Quick crossword no. 11,839



Across

- 1 Knapsack (8)
- 5 Adjoin at one end (4)
- 9 Be bright (5)
- 10 Word of opposite meaning (7)
- 11 Grey area (8,4)
- 13 Container for breakfast item (3,3)
- 14 Bloodsucking African fly (6)
- 17 First trip of vessel (6,6)
- 20 Pig's foot – type of racing horse (7)
- 21 Alcoholic liquor (5)
- 22 Toy that rises and falls (2-2)
- 23 Casino game (8)

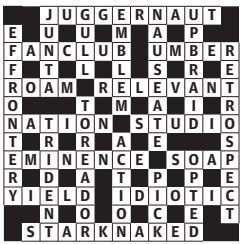
Down

- 1 Hit – party (4)
- 2 Natter (7)
- 3 Court verse writer (4,8)
- 4 Rush forward – cost (6)
- 6 Stringed instrument with circular body (5)
- 7 Interfered (8)
- 8 Item thought of as proof of cachet (6,6)

- 12 Branch of mathematics (8)
- 15 Powerful vessel used to pull larger ones (7)
- 16 Put too much effort into (6)
- 18 Use of words to imply the opposite of what they mean (5)
- 19 Present (4)

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Solution No 11,838



County are disqualified as Carter Shield climax draws near

- Near-top college removed from competition after three consecutive events missed
- Grizedale's teams make it through to all four semi-finals

by Charlotte Parker
Sports Editor

LENT TERM SAW four more Carter Shield events and although there were several shock results, there is no doubt that the story of the term so far is the disqualification of County college. The shock occurred as County missed three events consecutively; pop lacrosse, table tennis and aeroball; a major blow to County who were near the top of the table at the end of Micheltas term.

The other teams at the top of the table – Grizedale, Fylde and Lonsdale – no doubt breathed a sigh of relief as they were given a bit of breathing space. However, the competition still remains wide open with an interesting mix of teams through to the finals day.

The competition day of pop lacrosse saw only five colleges able to field a team; so rather than the usual structure of two groups, the sports reps voted on just having one big group with the top four colleges going through. Fylde produced their usual strong performance with some excellent saves from their goalkeeper; and the match of the day was no doubt Fylde beating Grizedale narrowly 4-3 in the last minute. However, Lonsdale produced some fantastic performances throughout the day to take them through to the finals day and are possibly the favourites for this event.

The next week saw both table tennis and aeroball taking part on the same day. With only seven teams, one of the groups contained only three teams and these happened to be the top three; Grizedale, Lonsdale and Fyl-

de. Grizedale overpowered everybody with ease, leading to a decider between Lonsdale and Fylde, with Fylde eventually crashing out in the mixed doubles. The other group saw Bowland and Pendle making their way into the final, a contest that could go either way.

Fylde triumphed in table tennis, helped by the inclusion of three members of the university team in their squad, including the number one seed. Grizedale also went through from that group leaving Lonsdale out. Pendle were also successful at getting through to the final in what has been a successful term for them.

The following week saw men's basketball take over the sports centre. Grizedale were once again successful, making them the only team to reach all four semi finals and putting them in pole position to extend their lead over Fylde at the top of the table. The other three teams to make it through were Bowland and Pendle, and most surprisingly of all, Furness, whose achievement of reaching a semi final will come as quite a shock compared to last term. Furness are actually in with a good chance of winning, or at least reaching the final of this event, which may see them slowly start to climb the table.

The semi finals and final all take place on the Sunday at the end of week 9 in what will be a fun filled, competitive day as colleges battle it out to gain as many points as they can as the Carter Shield is now two thirds of the way completed. It's not too late to get involved, simply turn up to the sports centre at 12.30 to either take part or simply support your college.

LU Darts team prove ready for Roses



Bullseye: University darts team captain, Si Rimington, shows off the championship trophy with the victorious team.

by Charlotte Parker
Sports Editor

FOR THE SECOND consecutive year, Lancaster University beat York University in the University Darts National Championships to become National Champions. In a agonizingly close final, Jenny Smith stole the show in the decider to lead Lancaster to a 7-6 victory.

With the semi finals and the final both taking place on the same day it was a long day and with the alcohol flowing freely from as early as 10am, it was always going to be a fun filled day no matter what the result.

Lancaster were drawn against Liverpool University in the semis, with York taking on home team Liverpool John Moores University. Lancaster saw of Liverpool with ease with York similarly coasting to the final with some ease; and so Lancaster vs. York were all set to battle it out, in a taster for Roses later on this year, to become national champions.

First up were Paul Walker, John Almond and Jamie Williams in the trebles game. One single leg of 1001 dragged on for quite some time with both sides seemingly incapable of hitting a double. Thankfully, Jamie Williams stepped up to end the agony of double one and putting Lancaster 1-0 up.

Next up were the three doubles games; best of 3 legs of 701. Tom Renolds and Lee McLelland stepped up first but could not produce their usual quality of darts leading to York taking the game, and drawing level. Danny Plaistowe and Roses Captain Alex Smith also failed to conquer in their doubles game. The other Roses Captain Ben Hodder fortunately had more luck with his doubles partner Si Rimington and so as the singles games begun the scores were tied at 2-2.

Lee McLelland and Danny Plaistow failed to perform again in his singles match, but fortunately Ben Hodder, Alex Smith, Jamie Williams and the mess that is John Almond all found their form to give Lancaster a

formidable lead of 6-4 and victory seemed inevitable.

University darts captain Si Rimington then decided to put himself forward to take the victory but unfortunately he once again failed to find form enabling York to get right back into the game now only trailing 6-5.

Tom Renolds was up next and by now the tension was rising in what was already a stifling atmosphere. In a contrast to the messy drunkenness of the quater finals, the atmosphere was strangely sober, with banter being banned.

In what seemed to be typical of the whole day, Tom Renolds could not find his usually impressive form and the York University crowd erupted as the York player lost, taking the final to the decider.

Stepping up for York University was their men's Roses Captain, and Lancaster University also had a Roses Captain stepping up – the women's captain Jenny Smith. Confident after winning in the semi final,

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Patriots Cup

by Oliver Holmes
Sports Editor

WET, OVERCAST AND rainy weather could not dampen the spirits in what was a closely contested day of sporting events between Cartmel and Furness.

Furness took an early lead with an entertaining 15-8.5 win in rounders. However, Cartmel fought back instantly with Cartmel A football securing a comfortable 2-0 victory. The B's added to this with a 3-2 win after racing into a three-goal lead early on with a brace from Michael Phelan and a goal from

Leigh Fitzer. Furness pulled two goals back but Cartmel held their nerve. Furness got some more points on the board with a win in Fun Football which went to penalties.

The Volleyball and Dodgeball events saw Cartmel deservedly run out 2-0 winners on both occasions before Furness took the honours in Basketball with a 2-0 victory. Unfortunately, the rain took its toll with Netball having to be cancelled so it was off to Furness's Trevor to play the bar sports.

The Team Pool saw an amazing black ball finish from Cartmel to win the tie 5-4 in what was a nail-biting fin-

ish. Not to be outdone, Furness took the honours in the People's Darts 6-3 and played their way to a 4-1 win on Guitar Hero.

With Cartmel leading the way, it seemed fitting that the final events were taking place at Cartmel Bar in which they could secure the Cup. A 3-3 draw in both the People's Pool and the quiz as well as a win in the Wii competition was enough to secure the title for Cartmel. A consolation victory in the Team Darts for Furness rounded off a competitive but friendly day in which Cartmel ran out 38-30 winners overall.